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DOCKET NO.: 19603/3296 (CRF D-2098B)
EXPRESS MAIL NO.: EL542863819US

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL FORM
(only for new nonprovisional applications under 37 CFR 1.53(b))

JC490 U.S. PTO
09/596784
06/19/00

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS

Washington, D.C. 20231

BOX: PATENT APPLICATION

SIR:

Transmitted herewith for filing is the patent application (including Specification, Claims, and Abstract, 65 pages) of:

Inventors : **Adam J. Bogdanove, Jihyun Francis Kim, Zhong-Min Wei, and Steven V. Beer**

For : **HYPERSENSITIVE RESPONSE ELICITOR FROM *ERWINIA AMYLOVORA*, ITS USE, AND ENCODING GENE**

***If a CONTINUING APPLICATION, please mark where appropriate and supply the requisite information below and in a preliminary amendment:*

☐ continuation ☒ divisional ☐ Continuation-In-Part (CIP)
of prior application Serial No. **09/120,663**

Prior application information: Examiner : **O. Zaghmout**
Art Unit : **1649**

Enclosed are:

☒ 5 sheets of informal drawings.

☐ **Signed** Combined Declaration and Power of Attorney (____ pages).

☒ **Copy** of two **signed** Combined Declaration and Power of Attorney (2 pages each) from a prior application (1.63(d) (for continuation/divisional).

☐ **Signed** statement deleting inventor(s) named in prior application (____ pages) (1.63(d)(2) and 1.33(b)).

☒ **Incorporation By Reference:** The entire disclosure of the prior application, from which a **copy** of the oath or declaration is supplied herewith, is considered as being part of the disclosure of the enclosed application and is hereby incorporated by reference therein.

☐ Assignment (____ pages) of the invention to _____.

☐ Assignment Transmittal Letter.

☐ Certified copy of a foreign priority document.

☐ Associate power of attorney.

☒ Two verified statements to establish small entity status (2 pages each) (copy filed in prior application).

- ☒ Preliminary Amendment (1 page).
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement, form PTO-1449 (11 pages) and 160 references (not enclosed).
- ☐ **UNSIGNED** Combined Declaration and Power of Attorney (_____ pages).
- ☒ Request for Transfer of Computer Readable Record and Statement in Accordance with 37 CFR § 1.821(f).
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Michael L. Goldman
NIXON PEABODY LLP
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Date: June 19, 2000


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Facsimile: (716) 263-1600

EXPRESS MAIL CERTIFICATE

DOCKET NO.: **19603/3296 (CRF D-2098B)**

APPLICANTS: **Adam J. Bogdanove, Jihyun Francis Kim, Zhong-Min Wei, and
Steven V. Beer**

TITLE: **HYPERSENSITIVE RESPONSE ELICITOR FROM
ERWINIA AMYLOVORA, ITS USE, AND ENCODING GENE**

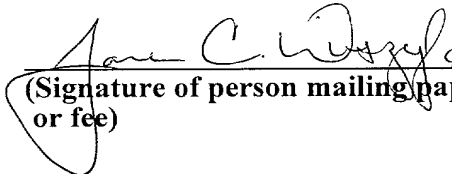
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Jane C. Wirszyła
(Typed or printed name of person
mailing paper or fee)


(Signature of person mailing paper
or fee)

EXPRESS MAIL CERTIFICATE

DOCKET NO.: 19603/3296 (CRF D-2098B)

APPLICANTS: Adam J. Bogdanove, Jihyun Francis Kim, Zhong-Min Wei, and Steven V. Beer

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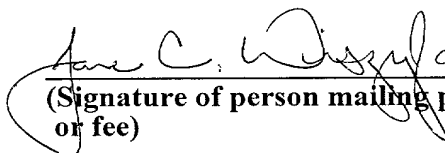
Certificate is attached to the copy of the **Two Verified Statements Claiming Small Entity Status (2 pages each)** as filed in the prior application of the above-named application.

EXPRESS MAIL NUMBER: EL542863819US

DATE OF DEPOSIT: June 19, 2000

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Jane C. Wirszyła
(Typed or printed name of person
mailing paper or fee)


(Signature of person mailing paper
or fee)

PATENT

Docket No.: 19603/1661 (CRF D-2098A)

Applicant or Patentee : **Adam J. Bogdanove, Jihyun Francis Kim, Zhong-Min Wei, and Steven V. Beer**
Serial or Patent No. : **09/120,663**
Filed or Issued : **July 22, 1998**
For : **HYPERSENSITIVE RESPONSE ELICITOR FROM *ERWINIA AMYLOVORA*, ITS USE, AND ENCODING GENE**

VERIFIED STATEMENT (DECLARATION) CLAIMING SMALL ENTITY STATUS (37 CFR 1.9(F) AND 1.27(d)) - NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION

I hereby declare that I am an official empowered to act on behalf of the nonprofit organization identified below:

NAME OF ORGANIZATION : **Cornell Research Foundation, Inc.**
ADDRESS OF ORGANIZATION : **Cornell Business & Technology Park
20 Thornwood Drive, Suite 105
Ithaca, New York 14850**

TYPE OF ORGANIZATION :

- ☒ UNIVERSITY OR OTHER INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION
- ☐ TAX EXEMPT UNDER INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE CODE (26 USC 501(a) and 501(c)(3))
- ☐ NONPROFIT SCIENTIFIC OR EDUCATIONAL UNDER STATUTE OF STATE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA (NAME OF STATE:) (CITATION OF STATUTE:)
- ☐ WOULD QUALIFY AS TAX EXEMPT UNDER INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE CODE (26 USC 501(a) and 501(c)(3)) IF LOCATED IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
- ☐ WOULD QUALIFY AS NONPROFIT SCIENTIFIC OR EDUCATIONAL UNDER STATUTE OF STATE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA IF LOCATED IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA (NAME OF STATE:) (CITATION OF STATUTE:)

I hereby declare that the nonprofit organization identified above qualifies as a nonprofit organization as defined in 37 CFR 1.9(e) for purposes of paying reduced fees under Section 41(a) and (b) of Title 35, United States Code with regard to the invention entitled **HYPERSENSITIVE RESPONSE ELICITOR FROM *ERWINIA AMYLOVORA*, ITS USE, AND ENCODING GENE** by inventors **Adam J. Bogdanove, Jihyun Francis Kim, Zhong-Min Wei, and Steven V. Beer.**

described in

- ☐ the specification filed herewith.
- ☒ U.S. Patent Application Serial No. **09/120,663**, filed **July 22, 1998**.

[] U.S. Patent No. _____, issued _____.

I hereby declare that rights under contract or law have been conveyed to and remain with the nonprofit organization with regard to the above identified invention.

If the rights held by the nonprofit organization are not exclusive, each individual, concern or organization having rights to the invention is listed below* and no rights to the invention are held by any person, other than the inventor, who could not qualify as a small business concern under 37 CFR 1.9(d) or by any concern which would not qualify as a small business concern under 37 CFR 1.9(d) or a nonprofit organization under 37 CFR 1.9(e).

*NOTE: Separate verified statements are required from each named person, concern or organization having rights to the invention averring to their status as small entities. (37 CFR 1.27).

NAME : EDEN Bioscience Corporation
ADDRESS : 11816 North Creek Parkway N., Bothell, Washington 98011-8205

[] INDIVIDUAL [X] SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN [] NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION

NAME :
ADDRESS :

[] INDIVIDUAL [] SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN [] NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION

I acknowledge the duty to file, in this application or patent, notification of any changes in status resulting in loss of entitlement to small entity status prior to paying, or at the time of paying, the earliest of the issue fee or any maintenance fee due after the date on which status as a small entity is no longer appropriate. (37 CFR 1.28(b))

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United State Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application, any patent issuing thereon, or any patent to which this verified statement is directed.

NAME OF PERSON SIGNING: Richard S. Cahoon
TITLE IN ORGANIZATION: Vice President
ADDRESS OF PERSON SIGNING: 20 Thornwood Drive, Suite 105
Ithaca, New York 14850

SIGNATURE: Richard S. Cahoon DATE: Nov. 17, 1998

*Cornell Research Foundation, Inc., is a Corporation which is wholly owned by Cornell University handling Patents and Licensing.

Applicant or Patentee : Adam J. Bogdanove, Jihyun Francis Kim, Zhong-Min Wei, and Steven V. Beer
Serial or Patent No. : 09/120,663
Filed or Issued : July 22, 1998
For : HYPERSENSITIVE RESPONSE ELICITOR FROM *ERWINIA AMYLOVORA*, ITS USE, AND ENCODING GENE

**VERIFIED STATEMENT (DECLARATION) CLAIMING SMALL ENTITY STATUS
(37 CFR 1.9(f) and 1.27(c)) - SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN**

I hereby declare that I am

- ☐ the owner of the small business concern identified below:
☒ an official of the small business concern empowered to act on behalf of the concern identified below:

NAME OF CONCERN : EDEN Bioscience Corporation
ADDRESS OF CONCERN : 11816 North Creek Parkway N.
Bothell, Washington 98011-8205

I hereby declare that the above identified small business concern qualifies as a small business concern as defined in 13 CFR 121.3-18, and reproduced in 37 CFR 1.9(d), for purposes of paying reduced fees under section 41(a) and (b) of Title 35, United States Code, in that the number of employees of the concern, including those of its affiliates, does not exceed 500 persons. For purposes of this statement, (1) the number of employees of the business concern is the average over the previous fiscal year of the concern of the persons employed on a full-time, part-time or temporary basis during each of the pay periods of the fiscal year, and (2) concerns are affiliates of each other when either, directly or indirectly, one concern controls or has the power to control the other, or a third party or parties controls or has the power to control both.

I hereby declare that rights under contract or law have been conveyed to and remain with the small business concern identified above with regard to the invention, entitled **HYPERSENSITIVE RESPONSE ELICITOR FROM *ERWINIA AMYLOVORA*, ITS USE, AND ENCODING GENE** by inventors Adam J. Bogdanove, Jihyun Francis Kim, Zhong-Min Wei, and Steven V. Beer described in

- ☐ the specification filed herewith
☒ U.S. Patent Application Serial No.: 09/120,663
Filed: July 22, 1998
☐ U.S. Patent No.:
Issued:

If the rights held by the above identified small business concern are not exclusive, each individual, concern or organization having rights to the invention is listed below* and no rights to the invention are held by any person, other than the inventor, who could not qualify as a small business concern under 37 CFR 1.9(d) or by any concern which would not qualify as a small business concern under 37 CFR 1.9(d) or a nonprofit organization under 37 CFR 1.9(e). *NOTE: Separate verified statements are required from each named person, concern or organization having rights to the invention averring to their status as small entities. (37 CFR 1.27).

NAME : Cornell Research Foundation, Inc.
ADDRESS : Cornell Business & Technology Park, 20 Thornwood Drive, Suite 105
Ithaca, New York 14850

☐ INDIVIDUAL ☐ SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN ☒ NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION

NAME :
ADDRESS :

☐ INDIVIDUAL ☐ SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN ☐ NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION

I acknowledge the duty to file, in this application or patent, notification of any change in status resulting in loss of entitlement to small entity status prior to paying, or at the time of paying, the earliest of the issue fee or any maintenance fee due after the date on which status as a small entity is no longer appropriate. (37 CFR 1.28(b))

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application, any patent issuing thereon, or any patent to which this verified statement is directed.

NAME OF PERSON SIGNING : Jerry L. Butler
TITLE OF PERSON OTHER THAN OWNER : President and Chief Executive Officer
ADDRESS OF PERSON SIGNING : 11816 North Creek Parkway N.
Bothell, Washington 98011-8205

SIGNATURE: _____

DATE: _____

4/13/98

EXPRESS MAIL CERTIFICATE

DOCKET NO.: **19603/3296 (CRF D-2098B)**

APPLICANTS: **Adam J. Bogdanove, Jihyun Francis Kim, Zhong-Min Wei, and
Steven V. Beer**

TITLE: **HYPERSENSITIVE RESPONSE ELICITOR FROM
ERWINIA AMYLOVORA, ITS USE, AND ENCODING GENE**

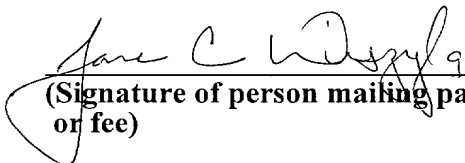
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Jane C. Wirszyla
(Typed or printed name of person
mailing paper or fee)


(Signature of person mailing paper
or fee)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants	:	Bogdanove et al.)	Examiner:
)	To Be Assigned
Serial No.	:	Division of 09/120,663)	
)	Art Unit:
Filed	:	Herewith)	To Be Assigned
)	
For	:	HYPERSENSITIVE RESPONSE ELICITOR)	
		FROM <i>ERWINIA AMYLOVORA</i> , ITS USE, AND)	
		ENCODING GENE)	

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Box: Patent Application

Dear Sir:

Please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

In the Specification:

Page 1, line 4, after "This application", please insert: -- is a division of U.S.
Patent Application Serial No. 09/120,663, filed July 22, 1998, and --.

Page 38, line 2, delete " , and the operon, *dspE*".

Page 40, line 25, delete "competing" and insert --completing--.

In the Claims:

Please delete claims 1-16 and 29-37.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: June 19, 2000



Edwin V. Merkel
Registration No. 40,087

NIXON PEABODY LLP
Clinton Square, P.O. Box 31051
Rochester, New York 14603
Telephone: (716) 263-1128
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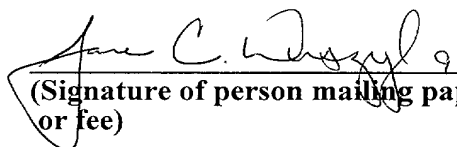
Certificate is attached to the **Patent Application including specification, claims, and abstract (65 pages)** as filed in the prior application of the above-named application.

EXPRESS MAIL NUMBER: **EL542863819US**

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Jane C. Wirszyła
(Typed or printed name of person
mailing paper or fee)


(Signature of person mailing paper
or fee)

TITLE: **HYPERSENSITIVE RESPONSE ELICITOR
FROM *ERWINIA AMYLOVORA*, ITS USE,
AND ENCODING GENE**

INVENTORS: **Adam J. Bogdanove, Jihyun Francis Kim,
Zhong-Min Wei, and Steven V. Beer**

DOCKET NO.: **19603-1661 (CRF D-2098A)**

19603-1661 (CRF D-2098A)

**HYPERSENSITIVE RESPONSE ELICITOR FROM
ERWINIA AMYLOVORA, ITS USE, AND ENCODING GENE**

This application claims benefit of U.S. Provisional Patent Application
5 Serial No. 60/055,105, filed August 4, 1997.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a hypersensitive response elicitor from
10 *Erwinia amylovora*, its use, and encoding gene.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Interactions between bacterial pathogens and their plant hosts generally
15 fall into two categories: (1) compatible (pathogen-host), leading to intercellular
bacterial growth, symptom development, and disease development in the host plant;
and (2) incompatible (pathogen-nonhost), resulting in the hypersensitive response, a
particular type of incompatible interaction occurring, without progressive disease
symptoms. During compatible interactions on host plants, bacterial populations
20 increase dramatically and progressive symptoms occur. During incompatible
interactions, bacterial populations do not increase, and progressive symptoms do not
occur.

The hypersensitive response ("HR") is a rapid, localized necrosis that
is associated with the active defense of plants against many pathogens (Kiraly, Z.,
25 "Defenses Triggered by the Invader: Hypersensitivity," pages 201-224 in: Plant
Disease: An Advanced Treatise, Vol. 5, J.G. Horsfall and E.B. Cowling, ed.
Academic Press New York (1980); Klement, Z., "Hypersensitivity," pages 149-177
in: Phytopathogenic Prokaryotes, Vol. 2, M.S. Mount and G.H. Lacy, ed. Academic
Press, New York (1982)). The hypersensitive response elicited by bacteria is readily
30 observed as a tissue collapse if high concentrations ($\geq 10^7$ cells/ml) of a limited
host-range pathogen like *Pseudomonas syringae* or *Erwinia amylovora* are infiltrated
into the leaves of nonhost plants (necrosis occurs only in isolated plant cells at lower
levels of inoculum) (Klement, Z., "Rapid Detection of Pathogenicity of
Phytopathogenic Pseudomonads," Nature 199:299-300; Klement, et al.,

“Hypersensitive Reaction Induced by Phytopathogenic Bacteria in the Tobacco Leaf,” Phytopathology 54:474-477 (1963); Turner, et al., “The Quantitative Relation Between Plant and Bacterial Cells Involved in the Hypersensitive Reaction,” Phytopathology 64:885-890 (1974); Klement, Z., “Hypersensitivity,” pages 149-177 in Phytopathogenic Prokaryotes, Vol. 2., M.S. Mount and G.H. Lacy, ed. Academic Press, New York (1982)). The capacities to elicit the hypersensitive response in a nonhost and be pathogenic in a host appear linked. As noted by Klement, Z., “Hypersensitivity,” pages 149-177 in Phytopathogenic Prokaryotes, Vol. 2., M.S. Mount and G.H. Lacy, ed. Academic Press, New York, these pathogens also cause physiologically similar, albeit delayed, necroses in their interactions with compatible hosts. Furthermore, the ability to produce the hypersensitive response or pathogenesis is dependent on a common set of genes, denoted *hrp* (Lindgren, P.B., et al., “Gene Cluster of *Pseudomonas syringae* pv. ‘phaseolicola’ Controls Pathogenicity of Bean Plants and Hypersensitivity on Nonhost Plants,” J. Bacteriol. 168:512-22 (1986); Willis, D.K., et al., “*hrp* Genes of Phytopathogenic Bacteria,” Mol. Plant-Microbe Interact. 4:132-138 (1991)). Consequently, the hypersensitive response may hold clues to both the nature of plant defense and the basis for bacterial pathogenicity.

The *hrp* genes are widespread in gram-negative plant pathogens, where they are clustered, conserved, and in some cases interchangeable (Willis, D.K., et al., “*hrp* Genes of Phytopathogenic Bacteria,” Mol. Plant-Microbe Interact. 4:132-138 (1991); Bonas, U., “*hrp* Genes of Phytopathogenic Bacteria,” pages 79-98 in: Current Topics in Microbiology and Immunology: Bacterial Pathogenesis of Plants and Animals - Molecular and Cellular Mechanisms, J.L. Dangel, ed. Springer-Verlag, Berlin (1994)). Several *hrp* genes encode components of a protein secretion pathway similar to one used by *Yersinia*, *Shigella*, and *Salmonella* spp. to secrete proteins essential in animal diseases (Van Gijsegem, et al., “Evolutionary Conservation of Pathogenicity Determinants Among Plant and Animal Pathogenic Bacteria,” Trends Microbiol. 1:175-180 (1993)). In *E. amylovora*, *P. syringae*, and *P. solanacearum*, *hrp* genes have been shown to control the production and secretion of glycine-rich, protein elicitors of the hypersensitive response (He, S.Y., et al. “*Pseudomonas Syringae* pv. *Syringae* Harpin_{PSS}: a Protein that is Secreted via the Hrp Pathway and Elicits the Hypersensitive Response in Plants,” Cell 73:1255-1266 (1993), Wei, Z.-H.,

et al., "HrpI of *Erwinia amylovora* Functions in Secretion of Harpin and is a Member of a New Protein Family," J. Bacteriol. 175:7958-7967 (1993); Arlat, M. et al. "PopA1, a Protein Which Induces a Hypersensitive-like Response on Specific Petunia Genotypes, is Secreted via the Hrp Pathway of *Pseudomonas solanacearum*," EMBO J. 13:543-553 (1994)).

The first of these proteins was discovered in *E. amylovora* Ea321, a bacterium that causes fire blight of rosaceous plants, and was designated harpin (Wei, Z.-M., et al, "Harpin, Elicitor of the Hypersensitive Response Produced by the Plant Pathogen *Erwinia amylovora*," Science 257:85-88 (1992)). Mutations in the encoding *hrpN* gene revealed that the hypersensitive response elicitor is required for *E. amylovora* to elicit a hypersensitive response in nonhost tobacco leaves and incite disease symptoms in highly susceptible pear fruit. The *P. solanacearum* GMI1000 PopA1 protein has similar physical properties and also elicits the hypersensitive response in leaves of tobacco, which is not a host of that strain (Arlat, et al. "PopA1, a Protein Which Induces a Hypersensitive-like Response on Specific Petunia Genotypes, is Secreted via the Hrp Pathway of *Pseudomonas solanacearum*," EMBO J. 13:543-53 (1994)). However, *P. solanacearum* *popA* mutants still elicit the hypersensitive response in tobacco and incite disease in tomato. Thus, the role of these glycine-rich hypersensitive response elicitors can vary widely among gram-negative plant pathogens.

Other plant pathogenic hypersensitive response elicitors have been isolated and their encoding genes have been cloned and sequenced. These include: *Erwinia chrysanthemi* (Bauer, et. al., "*Erwinia chrysanthemi* Harpin_{Ech}: Soft-Rot Pathogenesis," MPMI 8(4): 484-91 (1995)); *Erwinia carotovora* (Cui, et. al., "The RsmA⁺ Mutants of *Erwinia carotovora* subsp. *carotovora* Strain Ecc71 Overexpress *hrpN*_{Ecc} and Elicit a Hypersensitive Reaction-like Response in Tobacco Leaves," MPMI 9(7): 565-73 (1996)); *Erwinia stewartii* (Ahmad, et. al., "Harpin is not Necessary for the Pathogenicity of *Erwinia stewartii* on Maize," 8th Int'l. Cong. Molec. Plant-Microb. Inter. July 14-19, 1996 and Ahmad, et. al., "Harpin is not Necessary for the Pathogenicity of *Erwinia stewartii* on Maize," Ann. Mtg. Am. Phytopath. Soc. July 27-31, 1996); and *Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *syringae* (WO 94/26782 to Cornell Research Foundation, Inc.).

The present invention is a further advance in the effort to identify, clone, and sequence hypersensitive response elicitor proteins or polypeptides from plant pathogens.

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SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention is directed to an isolated protein or polypeptide which elicits a hypersensitive response in plants as well as an isolated DNA molecule which encodes the hypersensitive response eliciting protein or polypeptide.

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The hypersensitive response eliciting protein or polypeptide can be used to impart disease resistance to plants, to enhance plant growth, and/or to control insects. This involves applying the hypersensitive response elicitor protein or polypeptide in a non-infectious form to plants or plant seeds under conditions effective to impart disease resistance, to enhance plant growth, and/or to control insects on plants or plants grown from the plant seeds.

15

As an alternative to applying the hypersensitive response elicitor protein or polypeptide to plants or plant seeds in order to impart disease resistance, to enhance plant growth, and/or to control insects on plants, transgenic plants or plant seeds can be utilized. When utilizing transgenic plants, this involves providing a transgenic plant transformed with a DNA molecule encoding a hypersensitive response elicitor protein or polypeptide and growing the plant under conditions effective to impart disease resistance, to enhance plant growth, and/or to control insects in the plants or plants grown from the plant seeds. Alternatively, a transgenic plant seed transformed with the DNA molecule encoding a hypersensitive response elicitor protein or polypeptide can be provided and planted in soil. A plant is then propagated under conditions effective to impart disease resistance, to enhance plant growth, and/or to control insects on plants or plants grown from the plant seeds.

20

25

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

30

Figures 1A-D show mutagenesis, complementation and heterologous expression constructs, and homology with and complementation of mutants by the *avrE* locus of *P. syringae* for the *dspE* operon of *E. amylovora*. Dashed boxes are

uncharacterized ORFs; a filled triangle indicates a *hrp* (i.e. hypersensitive response elicitor encoding gene); box is a regulatory sequence that preceeds many *hrp* genes; and an open triangle indicates another promoter. Thick lines delineate the DNA for which sequence was accessioned. Figure 1A shows the *dsp/hrp* gene cluster of

- 5 *E. amylovora* in pCPP430. Operon names and types of proteins encoded are indicated at the top. B, *Bam*HI; E, *Eco*RI; H, *Hind*III. Half-arrows indicate internal promoters without similarity to the *hrp* box consensus. Figure 1B shows the region downstream of *hrpN* containing the *dspE* operon. Circles mark deletion mutations and representative transposon insertions: black, non-pathogenic and HR⁺ (i.e. hypersensitive response eliciting) or HR reduced (*dsp*); gray, reduced virulence and HR; white, wild-type. T104 lies within the area marked by the dashed double arrow. K, *Tn5*miniKm; P, *Tn5*phoA; T, *Tn10*tet^r; Δ, deletion mutation. The gray box is A/T-rich DNA. Figure 1C shows the clones and subclones of the *dspE* operon. Plasmid designations are indicated at the left, and vector-borne promoters at the right.
- 10 Restriction sites used for subcloning not shown above are shown in parentheses. A “+” aligned with a circle representing a mutation in B indicates that the subclone complements that mutation. Figure 1D shows the *avrE* locus (transcription units III and IV) of *P. syringae* pv. tomato DC3000 in pCPP2357. Percent amino acid identity of the predicted proteins AvrE and AvrF to DspE and DspF, respectively, are
- 15 indicated. Black rectangles are transcriptional terminators (inverted repeats). Complementation of mutations shown in Figure 1B are depicted as in Figure 1C, above.

- Figure 2 shows the expression of the full-length and the N-terminal half of DspE in recombinant *E. coli* DH5α. Lysates of cells carrying either
- 25 pCPP1259, containing the entire *dspE* operon (lane A); pCPP50, the cloning vector (lane B); or pCPP1244, containing only the 5' half of the *dspE* gene (lane C), were subjected to SDS-PAGE followed by Coomassie staining. Bands corresponding to DspE (lane A) and the N-terminal half of DspE (lane C) are marked by arrows. Migration of molecular weight markers is indicated on the left.

- 30 Figures 3A-D show the role of *dspe* in pathogenicity and HR elicitation. Figure 3A shows immature pear fruit 4 days after inoculation with (left to right) strains Ea321, Ea321*dspEA*1554, or Ea321*dspEA*1554 harboring the 5' half of

dspE on pCPP1237. Figure 3B shows Norchief soybean leaf 24 hr after infiltration with (1) Ea321, (2) Ea321*dspE*Δ1554, (3) Ea321*hrpN*::*Tn5* (Wei, et al., Science, 257:85-88 (1992), which is hereby incorporated by reference), and (4) Ea321*hrpL*::*Tn5* (Wei, et al., J. Bacteriol., 177:6201-10 (1995), which is hereby incorporated by reference). Figure 3C shows a tobacco leaf 48 hr after infiltration with parallel dilution series of suspensions of strains (left) Ea321 and (right) Ea321*dspE*Δ1554. The concentrations infiltrated (top to bottom) are 1×10^{10} , 1×10^9 , 5×10^8 , and 5×10^7 cfu/ml. Figure 3D is like Figure 3C except the more virulent strain Ea273 and corresponding mutant Ea273*dspE*Δ1554 were used, and concentrations ranged from 5×10^9 to 5×10^5 cfu/ml in log increments.

Figure 4 shows the expression of a promoterless GUS construct fused to *dspE* in *E. amylovora* Ea273. Ea273 and Ea273*dspE*::*uidA* (a merodiploid containing both a wild-type *dspE* and a truncated *dspE* fused to the *uidA* gene; black bars) were grown in LB or Hrp MM, or inoculated to immature pear fruit. Ea273*dspE*::*uidA**hrpL*::*Tn5* (dark gray bar) and Ea273*hrcV*::*Tn5**uidA* (light gray bar) were also grown in *hrp* MM. Values shown represent means of triplicate samples normalized for bacterial cell concentration. Standard deviations are represented by lines extending from each bar. The mean values for three samples of Ea273 in each assay were subtracted from, and standard deviations added to, the corresponding values obtained for the other strains.

Figures 5A-C show the transgeneric avirulence function of the *dspE* operon and complementation of a *dspE* mutant with the *avrE* locus. Norchief soybean leaves were either (See Figure 5A) infiltrated with 1×10^8 cfu/ml suspensions of (left) *P. syringae* pv. *glycinea* race 4 carrying pCPP1250 (containing the *dspE* operon) or (right) pML 122 (the cloning vector) and photographed after 24 hr at room temperature or (See Figure 5B) infiltrated with 8×10^5 cfu/ml suspensions of the same strains and photographed after seven days at 22° C and high relative humidity. Tissue collapse is apparent on both leaves where the strain carrying pCPP1250 was infiltrated. On the leaf incubated for seven days, chlorosis extending beyond the infiltrated area, typical of disease, is apparent on the half infiltrated with the strain carrying the vector only. The dark section on the side of the leaf infiltrated with the strain carrying pCPP1250 is a shadow caused by a buckle in the leaf. Figure 5C

shows pear halves inoculated with (left to right) Ea321, Ea321*dspE*Δ1521(pCPP2357, containing the *avrE* locus), or Ea321*dspE*Δ1521(pCPP2357*avrE::Tn5uidA*) and photographed after seven days. Although symptoms are greatly reduced relative to wild type, necrosis is apparent around and drops of ooze can be seen within the well of the fruit inoculated with the *dspE* strain carrying the intact *avrE* locus. The fruit inoculated with the *dspE* strain carrying a disrupted clone of *avrE* is symptomless.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to an isolated DNA molecule having a nucleotide sequence of SEQ. ID. No. 1 as follows:

	ATGGAATTAA AATCACTGGG AACTGAACAC AAGGCGGCAG TACACACAGC GGCGCACAAC	60
15	CCTGTGGGGC ATGGTGTTCG CTTACAGCAG GGCAGCAGCA GCAGCAGCCC GCAAAATGCC	120
	GCTGCATCAT TGGCGGCAGA AGGCAAAAAT CGTGGGAAAA TGCCGAGAAT TCACCAGCCA	180
20	TCTACTGCGG CTGATGGTAT CAGCGCTGCT CACCAGCAAA AGAAATCCTT CAGTCTCAGG	240
	GGCTGTTTGG GGACGAAAAA ATTTTCCAGA TCGGCACCGC AGGGCCAGCC AGGTACCACC	300
	CACAGCAAAG GGGCAACATT GCGCGATCTG CTGGCGCGGG ACGACGGCGA AACGCAGCAT	360
25	GAGGCGGCCG CGCCAGATGC GGC CGTTTTG ACCCGTTCCG GCGGCGTCAA ACGCCGCAAT	420
	ATGGACGACA TGGCCGGGCG GCCAATGGTG AAAGGTGGCA GCGGCGAAGA TAAGGTACCA	480
30	ACGCAGCAAA AACGGCATCA GCTGAACAAT TTTGGCCAGA TCGCCCAAAC GATGTTGAGC	540
	AAAATGGCTC ACCCGGCTTC AGCCAACGCC GGCATCGCC TGCAGCATTC ACCGCCGCAC	600
	ATCCCGGGTA GCCACCACGA AATCAAGGAA GAACCGGTTG GCTCCACCAG CAAGGCAACA	660
35	ACGGCCACG CAGACAGAGT GGAAATCGCT CAGGAAGATG ACGACAGCGA ATTCCAGCAA	720
	CTGCATCAAC AGCGGCTGGC GCGCGAACGG GAAAATCCAC CGCAGCCGCC CAAACTCGGC	780
40	GTTGCCACAC CGATTAGCGC CAGGTTTCAG CCCAAACTGA CTGCGGTTGC GGAAAGCGTC	840
	CTTGAGGGGA CAGATACCAC GCAGTCACCC CTTAAGCCGC AATCAATGCT GAAAGGAAGT	900
	GGAGCCGGGG TAACGCCGCT GCGGGTAACG CTGGATAAAG GCAAGTTGCA GCTGGCACCG	960
45	GATAATCCAC CCGCGCTCAA TACGTTGTTG AAGCAGACAT TGGGTAAAGA CACCCAGCAC	1020
	TATCTGGCGC ACCATGCCAG CAGCGACGGT AGCCAGCATC TGCTGCTGGA CAACAAAGGC	1080
50	CACCTGTTTG ATATCAAAAG CACCGCCACC AGCTATAGCG TGCTGCACAA CAGCCACCCC	1140
	GGTGAGATAA AGGGCAAGCT GCGCGAGGCG GGTACTGGCT CCGTCAGCGT AGACGGTAAA	1200

	AGCGGCAAGA	TCTCGCTGGG	GAGCGGTACG	CAAAGTCACA	ACAAAACAAT	GCTAAGCCAA	1260
	CCGGGGGAAG	CGCACCGTTC	CTTATTAACC	GGCATTGTC	AGCATCCTGC	TGGCGCAGCG	1320
5	CGGCCGCAGG	GCGAGTCAAT	CCGCCTGCAT	GACGACAAA	TTCATATCCT	GCATCCGGAG	1380
	CTGGGCGTAT	GGCAATCTGC	GGATAAAGAT	ACCCACAGCC	AGCTGTCTCG	CCAGGCAGAC	1440
10	GGTAAGCTCT	ATGCGCTGAA	AGACAACCGT	ACCCTGCAA	ACCTCTCCGA	TAATAAATCC	1500
	TCAGAAAAGC	TGGTCGATAA	AATCAAATCG	TATTCCGTTG	ATCAGCGGGG	GCAGGTGGCG	1560
	ATCCTGACGG	ATACTCCCGG	CCGCCATAAG	ATGAGTATTA	TGCCCTCGCT	GGATGCTTCC	1620
15	CCGGAGAGCC	ATATTTCCCT	CAGCCTGCAT	TTTGCCGATG	CCCACCAGGG	GTTATTGCAC	1680
	GGGAAGTCGG	AGCTTGAGGC	ACAATCTGTC	GCGATCAGCC	ATGGGCGACT	GGTTGTGGCC	1740
20	GATAGCGAAG	GCAAGCTGTT	TAGCGCCGCC	ATTCCGAAGC	AAGGGGATGG	AAACGAACTG	1800
	AAAATGAAAG	CCATGCCTCA	GCATGCGCTC	GATGAACATT	TTGGTCATGA	CCACCAGATT	1860
	TCTGGATTTT	TCCATGACGA	CCACGGCCAG	CTTAATGCGC	TGGTGAAAAA	TAACCTCAGG	1920
25	CAGCAGCATG	CCTGCCCCGT	GGGTAACGAT	CATCAGTTTC	ACCCCGGCTG	GAACCTGACT	1980
	GATGCGCTGG	TTATCGACAA	TCAGCTGGGG	CTGCATCATA	CCAATCCTGA	ACCGCATGAG	2040
30	ATTCTTGATA	TGGGGCATTT	AGGCAGCCTG	GCGTTACAGG	AGGGCAAGCT	TCACTATTTT	2100
	GACCAGCTGA	CCAAAGGGTG	GACTGGCGCG	GAGTCAGATT	GTAAGCAGCT	GAAAAAAGGC	2160
	CTGGATGGAG	CAGCTTATCT	ACTGAAAGAC	GGTGAAGTGA	AACGCCTGAA	TATTAATCAG	2220
35	AGCACCTCCT	CTATCAAGCA	CGGAACGGAA	AACGTTTTTT	CGCTGCCGCA	TGTGCGCAAT	2280
	AAACCGGAGC	CGGGAGATGC	CCTGCAAGGG	CTGAATAAAG	ACGATAAGGC	CCAGGCCATG	2340
40	GCGGTGATTG	GGGTAAATAA	ATACCTGGCG	CTGACGGA	AAGGGGACAT	TCGCTCCTTC	2400
	CAGATAAAAC	CCGGCACCCA	GCAGTTGGAG	CGGCCGGCAC	AAACTCTCAG	CCGCGAAGGT	2460
	ATCAGCGGCG	AACTGAAAGA	CATTCATGTC	GACCACAAGC	AGAACCTGTA	TGCCTTGACC	2520
45	CACGAGGGAG	AGGTGTTTCA	TCAGCCGCGT	GAAGCCTGGC	AGAATGGTGC	CGAAAGCAGC	2580
	AGCTGGCACA	AACTGGCGTT	GCCACAGAGT	GAAAGTAAGC	TAAAAAGTCT	GGACATGAGC	2640
50	CATGAGCACA	AACCGATTGC	CACCTTTGAA	GACGGTAGCC	AGCATCAGCT	GAAGGCTGGC	2700
	GGCTGGCACG	CCTATGCGGC	ACCTGAACGC	GGGCCGCTGG	CGGTGGGTAC	CAGCGGTTCA	2760
	CAAACCGTCT	TTAACCGACT	AATGCAGGGG	GTGAAAGGCA	AGGTGATCCC	AGGCAGCGGG	2820
55	TTGACGGTTA	AGCTCTCGGC	TCAGACGGGG	GGAATGACCG	GCGCCGAAGG	GCGCAAGGTC	2880
	AGCAGTAAAT	TTCCGAAAG	GATCCGCGCC	TATGCGTTCA	ACCCAACAAT	GTCCACGCCG	2940
60	CGACCGATTA	AAAATGCTGC	TTATGCCACA	CAGCACGGCT	GGCAGGGGCG	TGAGGGGTTG	3000
	AAGCCGTTGT	ACGAGATGCA	GGGAGCGCTG	ATTAACAAC	TGGATGCGCA	TAACGTTCTG	3060

	CATAACGC	GCACAGCC	AGTTCG	CAGAGC	AAACTGG	AAACTGG	AACTT	AGGCGA	AAACAT	3120
	GGCGCAGA	ATTGCTTA	AACGAC	CATGAAG	CGCATG	TTCCGCG	ACGAGC	GAGTGCA	CAACC	3180
5	CGTTCGGT	GACCGTTT	TAGGTCA	AACATCAG	GGAGTGCT	AAAGCAAC	CGGTGAA	AATCAAT		3240
	AGCGAATTT	AGCCATCG	CCCGCA	AAGGCG	TTGGTCC	AGTGCTT	AACTCA	ATCGCTCT		3300
	GGTCAGGAT	CTAAGCA	AGTCAAC	AGGACAG	GCAGTAC	ATGCCG	CCGAGAG			3360
10	AGTAAACT	GCAATCC	ATGCTGG	GGGCACTT	TGTCAGT	GCCGGT	GATATAG			3420
	AAGGGCGAG	ATCCCGCT	TGGCCAG	CGCGAT	CCGAATG	ATAAAAC	CGCACTG	ACCAAAA		3480
15	TCGCGTTT	TAATTTAG	ATACCGT	GACCATC	GGTGAAC	TGCACTG	CGATAAG	GCG		3540
	AAACTGGT	ATCTGACC	ATAACCC	GATGATG	CCAGAGT	CGCCAG	CTTC			3600
	GATACGCT	GCTGAAA	AGCGTAT	GAGAGC	AATCCGG	TAGAGC	ATATGGG			3660
20	TTACCCCAT	ATAAGGC	CTGGAAG	CAATAT	TATGATG	CCGTCAA	AGCTTAT	CAATGCC		3720
	TTTAAGAA	AGCACCA	CGGTCA	ATCTGAC	CCACGCG	TACCCTG	GAATCAG	GGG		3780
25	AGTGCGG	AGCTGG	CAAGAA	GCTCAAG	AATACG	CTGTTGT	CCCTGG	ACAGT		3840
	ATGAGCTT	CAAGCGG	TCATAG	GGGGG	GTCAGCA	CTTGTG	TACCTTA	GCTAGC		3900
	AAGAAGGT	GTCAGTT	CCGGTAT	CCCCCG	GCCGGCA	TCCGATG	CGCTATA	AC		3960
30	CTGAGCTT	CAAGTCG	TACCG	GATTG	AACGTC	AGTTT	TGGCCG	CGCGGG	GTG	4020
	AGTGGTAA	CAATCGT	CGCTAC	CGCATG	CTATATG	ACCGTA	AGAAA			4080
35	ACCACTGC	AGGTAAC	GCAGT	GACTGG	TGACGCA	AAATCAG	CCCGA	CTTG		4140
	CGTATCGG	CGCTGTG	AGTGGC	ACCCTG	CAAGGA	ACGCTA	CAAAAC	CTGAAG	TTT	4200
	AAGCTGAC	AGGATG	AGCTG	CCCTGG	CTTATG	GCTAGG	CACTTG	ACC		4260
40	CCGGCAGA	ACATGTT	GCAAAA	GGGGAT	CGAATC	AGCAGG	CGACG	CAAACT	GACG	4320
	TTTAGCGT	CGATAC	CTCGGC	AAATCTG	GATCGT	GCCGT	ATCAAT	CTGA	AGAC	4380
45	GGCAGTAA	ACAAATG	GTGTG	CACTGCC	GTCTTG	CGCTAG	TGC	ATCGG	CAAC	4440
	CTGGCCG	CGCTCG	TGATG	ACGCAG	CACTCTG	GCCAG	AGTTT	GCGAC	CTCG	4500
	GCCAGCA	ATAACCG	CCCAAC	CTTCTCA	ACGGGT	CGCTAG	CTTAC	CGGCT		4560
50	GCTTTAG	GGGTTG	CCCATTC	ATCTAC	GCAATG	AGAGGAA	CGGTC	GGGAT	CTTCCG	4620
	TTTACCT	CGACCA	ATGTTTC	GGCAGC	GCTG	ATACCT	ACAG	AGTAT	C	4680
55	AGCCTGGA	ATGAA	CGCGC	GGAGCC	GGTGA	ACCAGCA	ACGAT	AGCGA	GTTG	4740
	ACGCTGG	GAAACAC	TTTAA	GGATAG	CGGCC	ACAACGA	AGATG	CTTGC	CGC	4800
	TTAGATG	ACGCTA	AGCCCG	C	TGAACA	ACTGC	ATATTT	TACAG	CATTT	4860
60	GATGTCG	TCGTG	ATGACG	CTACG	AGGCG	GTGCGCA	ACCTG	AAAAAA	AACTG	4920

CAACAGGCTG CGGACAGCCA CAGCATGGAA TTAGGATCTG CCAGTCACAG CACGACCTAC 4980
AATAATCTGT CGAGAATAAA TAATGACGGC ATTGTCGAGC TGCTACACAA ACATTTCGAT 5040
5 GCGGCATTAC CAGCAAGCAG TGCCAAACGT CTTGGTGAAA TGATGAATAA CGATCCGGCA 5100
CTGAAAGATA TTATTAAGCA GCTGCAAAGT ACGCCGTTCA GCAGCGCCAG CGTGTTCGATG 5160
10 GAGCTGAAAG ATGGTCTGCG TGAGCAGACG GAAAAAGCAA TACTGGACGG TAAGGTCGGT 5220
CGTGAAGAAG TGGGAGTACT TTTCCAGGAT CGTAACAAC TCGTGTATA ATCGGTCAGC 5280
GTCAGTCAGT CCGTCAGCAA AAGCGAAGGC TTCAATACCC CAGCGCTGTT ACTGGGGACG 5340
15 AGCAACAGCG CTGCTATGAG CATGGAGCGC AACATCGGAA CCATTAATTT TAAATACGGC 5400
CAGGATCAGA ACACCCACG GCGATTACC CTGGAGGGTG GAATAGCTCA GGCTAATCCG 5460
CAGGTCGCAT CTGCGCTTAC TGATTTGAAG AAGGAAGGGC TGGAAATGAA GAGCTAA 5517
20

This DNA molecule is known as the dspE gene. This isolated DNA molecule of the present invention encodes a protein or polypeptide which elicits a plant pathogen's hypersensitive response having an amino acid sequence of SEQ. ID. No. 2 as follows:

25 Met Glu Leu Lys Ser Leu Gly Thr Glu His Lys Ala Ala Val His Thr
1 5 10 15
30 Ala Ala His Asn Pro Val Gly His Gly Val Ala Leu Gln Gln Gly Ser
20 25 30
Ser Ser Ser Ser Pro Gln Asn Ala Ala Ala Ser Leu Ala Ala Glu Gly
35 35 40 45
35 Lys Asn Arg Gly Lys Met Pro Arg Ile His Gln Pro Ser Thr Ala Ala
50 55 60
40 Asp Gly Ile Ser Ala Ala His Gln Gln Lys Lys Ser Phe Ser Leu Arg
65 70 75 80
40 Gly Cys Leu Gly Thr Lys Lys Phe Ser Arg Ser Ala Pro Gln Gly Gln
85 90 95
45 Pro Gly Thr Thr His Ser Lys Gly Ala Thr Leu Arg Asp Leu Leu Ala
100 105 110
Arg Asp Asp Gly Glu Thr Gln His Glu Ala Ala Ala Pro Asp Ala Ala
115 120 125
50 Arg Leu Thr Arg Ser Gly Gly Val Lys Arg Arg Asn Met Asp Asp Met
130 135 140
Ala Gly Arg Pro Met Val Lys Gly Gly Ser Gly Glu Asp Lys Val Pro
145 150 155 160
55 Thr Gln Gln Lys Arg His Gln Leu Asn Asn Phe Gly Gln Met Arg Gln
165 170 175

Thr Met Leu Ser Lys Met Ala His Pro Ala Ser Ala Asn Ala Gly Asp
180 185 190

5 Arg Leu Gln His Ser Pro Pro His Ile Pro Gly Ser His His Glu Ile
195 200 205

Lys Glu Glu Pro Val Gly Ser Thr Ser Lys Ala Thr Thr Ala His Ala
210 215 220

10 Asp Arg Val Glu Ile Ala Gln Glu Asp Asp Asp Ser Glu Phe Gln Gln
225 230 235 240

Leu His Gln Gln Arg Leu Ala Arg Glu Arg Glu Asn Pro Pro Gln Pro
245 250 255

15 Pro Lys Leu Gly Val Ala Thr Pro Ile Ser Ala Arg Phe Gln Pro Lys
260 265 270

20 Leu Thr Ala Val Ala Glu Ser Val Leu Glu Gly Thr Asp Thr Thr Gln
275 280 285

Ser Pro Leu Lys Pro Gln Ser Met Leu Lys Gly Ser Gly Ala Gly Val
290 295 300

25 Thr Pro Leu Ala Val Thr Leu Asp Lys Gly Lys Leu Gln Leu Ala Pro
305 310 315 320

Asp Asn Pro Pro Ala Leu Asn Thr Leu Leu Lys Gln Thr Leu Gly Lys
325 330 335

30 Asp Thr Gln His Tyr Leu Ala His His Ala Ser Ser Asp Gly Ser Gln
340 345 350

35 His Leu Leu Leu Asp Asn Lys Gly His Leu Phe Asp Ile Lys Ser Thr
355 360 365

Ala Thr Ser Tyr Ser Val Leu His Asn Ser His Pro Gly Glu Ile Lys
370 375 380

40 Gly Lys Leu Ala Gln Ala Gly Thr Gly Ser Val Ser Val Asp Gly Lys
385 390 395 400

Ser Gly Lys Ile Ser Leu Gly Ser Gly Thr Gln Ser His Asn Lys Thr
405 410 415

45 Met Leu Ser Gln Pro Gly Glu Ala His Arg Ser Leu Leu Thr Gly Ile
420 425 430

50 Trp Gln His Pro Ala Gly Ala Ala Arg Pro Gln Gly Glu Ser Ile Arg
435 440 445

Leu His Asp Asp Lys Ile His Ile Leu His Pro Glu Leu Gly Val Trp
450 455 460

55 Gln Ser Ala Asp Lys Asp Thr His Ser Gln Leu Ser Arg Gln Ala Asp
465 470 475 480

Gly Lys Leu Tyr Ala Leu Lys Asp Asn Arg Thr Leu Gln Asn Leu Ser
485 490 495

60 Asp Asn Lys Ser Ser Glu Lys Leu Val Asp Lys Ile Lys Ser Tyr Ser
500 505 510

005799"49295553

	Val	Asp	Gln	Arg	Gly	Gln	Val	Ala	Ile	Leu	Thr	Asp	Thr	Pro	Gly	Arg
			515					520					525			
5	His	Lys	Met	Ser	Ile	Met	Pro	Ser	Leu	Asp	Ala	Ser	Pro	Glu	Ser	His
		530					535					540				
10	Ile	Ser	Leu	Ser	Leu	His	Phe	Ala	Asp	Ala	His	Gln	Gly	Leu	Leu	His
	545					550					555					560
	Gly	Lys	Ser	Glu	Leu	Glu	Ala	Gln	Ser	Val	Ala	Ile	Ser	His	Gly	Arg
					565					570					575	
15	Leu	Val	Val	Ala	Asp	Ser	Glu	Gly	Lys	Leu	Phe	Ser	Ala	Ala	Ile	Pro
				580					585					590		
	Lys	Gln	Gly	Asp	Gly	Asn	Glu	Leu	Lys	Met	Lys	Ala	Met	Pro	Gln	His
			595					600					605			
20	Ala	Leu	Asp	Glu	His	Phe	Gly	His	Asp	His	Gln	Ile	Ser	Gly	Phe	Phe
	610						615					620				
	His	Asp	Asp	His	Gly	Gln	Leu	Asn	Ala	Leu	Val	Lys	Asn	Asn	Phe	Arg
	625					630					635					640
25																
	Gln	Gln	His	Ala	Cys	Pro	Leu	Gly	Asn	Asp	His	Gln	Phe	His	Pro	Gly
					645					650					655	
30	Trp	Asn	Leu	Thr	Asp	Ala	Leu	Val	Ile	Asp	Asn	Gln	Leu	Gly	Leu	His
				660					665					670		
	His	Thr	Asn	Pro	Glu	Pro	His	Glu	Ile	Leu	Asp	Met	Gly	His	Leu	Gly
			675					680					685			
35	Ser	Leu	Ala	Leu	Gln	Glu	Gly	Lys	Leu	His	Tyr	Phe	Asp	Gln	Leu	Thr
	690						695					700				
	Lys	Gly	Trp	Thr	Gly	Ala	Glu	Ser	Asp	Cys	Lys	Gln	Leu	Lys	Lys	Gly
	705					710					715					720
40	Leu	Asp	Gly	Ala	Ala	Tyr	Leu	Leu	Lys	Asp	Gly	Glu	Val	Lys	Arg	Leu
					725					730					735	
	Asn	Ile	Asn	Gln	Ser	Thr	Ser	Ser	Ile	Lys	His	Gly	Thr	Glu	Asn	Val
				740					745					750		
45	Phe	Ser	Leu	Pro	His	Val	Arg	Asn	Lys	Pro	Glu	Pro	Gly	Asp	Ala	Leu
			755					760					765			
50	Gln	Gly	Leu	Asn	Lys	Asp	Asp	Lys	Ala	Gln	Ala	Met	Ala	Val	Ile	Gly
	770						775					780				
	Val	Asn	Lys	Tyr	Leu	Ala	Leu	Thr	Glu	Lys	Gly	Asp	Ile	Arg	Ser	Phe
	785					790					795					800
55	Gln	Ile	Lys	Pro	Gly	Thr	Gln	Gln	Leu	Glu	Arg	Pro	Ala	Gln	Thr	Leu
					805					810					815	
	Ser	Arg	Glu	Gly	Ile	Ser	Gly	Glu	Leu	Lys	Asp	Ile	His	Val	Asp	His
				820												

	Lys	Gln	Asn	Leu	Tyr	Ala	Leu	Thr	His	Glu	Gly	Glu	Val	Phe	His	Gln	
			835					840					845				
5	Pro	Arg	Glu	Ala	Trp	Gln	Asn	Gly	Ala	Glu	Ser	Ser	Ser	Trp	His	Lys	
		850					855					860					
	Leu	Ala	Leu	Pro	Gln	Ser	Glu	Ser	Lys	Leu	Lys	Ser	Leu	Asp	Met	Ser	
	865					870					875				880		
10	His	Glu	His	Lys	Pro	Ile	Ala	Thr	Phe	Glu	Asp	Gly	Ser	Gln	His	Gln	
					885					890					895		
	Leu	Lys	Ala	Gly	Gly	Trp	His	Ala	Tyr	Ala	Ala	Pro	Glu	Arg	Gly	Pro	
15				900					905					910			
	Leu	Ala	Val	Gly	Thr	Ser	Gly	Ser	Gln	Thr	Val	Phe	Asn	Arg	Leu	Met	
		915					920						925				
20	Gln	Gly	Val	Lys	Gly	Lys	Val	Ile	Pro	Gly	Ser	Gly	Leu	Thr	Val	Lys	
	930						935					940					
	Leu	Ser	Ala	Gln	Thr	Gly	Gly	Met	Thr	Gly	Ala	Glu	Gly	Arg	Lys	Val	
	945					950					955				960		
25	Ser	Ser	Lys	Phe	Ser	Glu	Arg	Ile	Arg	Ala	Tyr	Ala	Phe	Asn	Pro	Thr	
					965					970					975		
	Met	Ser	Thr	Pro	Arg	Pro	Ile	Lys	Asn	Ala	Ala	Tyr	Ala	Thr	Gln	His	
30				980					985					990			
	Gly	Trp	Gln	Gly	Arg	Glu	Gly	Leu	Lys	Pro	Leu	Tyr	Glu	Met	Gln	Gly	
			995					1000					1005				
35	Ala	Leu	Ile	Lys	Gln	Leu	Asp	Ala	His	Asn	Val	Arg	His	Asn	Ala	Pro	
	1010						1015					1020					
	Gln	Pro	Asp	Leu	Gln	Ser	Lys	Leu	Glu	Thr	Leu	Asp	Leu	Gly	Glu	His	
	1025					1030					1035				1040		
40	Gly	Ala	Glu	Leu	Leu	Asn	Asp	Met	Lys	Arg	Phe	Arg	Asp	Glu	Leu	Glu	
				1045						1050					1055		
	Gln	Ser	Ala	Thr	Arg	Ser	Val	Thr	Val	Leu	Gly	Gln	His	Gln	Gly	Val	
45				1060					1065					1070			
	Leu	Lys	Ser	Asn	Gly	Glu	Ile	Asn	Ser	Glu	Phe	Lys	Pro	Ser	Pro	Gly	
		1075						1080					1085				
50	Lys	Ala	Leu	Val	Gln	Ser	Phe	Asn	Val	Asn	Arg	Ser	Gly	Gln	Asp	Leu	
	1090					1095						1100					
	Ser	Lys	Ser	Leu	Gln	Gln	Ala	Val	His	Ala	Thr	Pro	Pro	Ser	Ala	Glu	
	1105					1110					1115				1120		
55	Ser	Lys	Leu	Gln	Ser	Met	Leu	Gly	His	Phe	Val	Ser	Ala	Gly	Val	Asp	
					1125					1130				1135			
	Met	Ser	His	Gln	Lys	Gly	Glu	Ile	Pro	Leu	Gly	Arg	Gln	Arg	Asp	Pro	
			1140						1145					1150			
60	Asn	Asp	Lys	Thr	Ala	Leu	Thr	Lys	Ser	Arg	Leu	Ile	Leu	Asp	Thr	Val	
			1155					1160					1165				

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	Thr Ile Gly Glu Leu His Glu Leu Ala Asp Lys Ala Lys Leu Val Ser	
	1170	1175 1180
5	Asp His Lys Pro Asp Ala Asp Gln Ile Lys Gln Leu Arg Gln Gln Phe	
	1185	1190 1195 1200
	Asp Thr Leu Arg Glu Lys Arg Tyr Glu Ser Asn Pro Val Lys His Tyr	
		1205 1210 1215
10	Thr Asp Met Gly Phe Thr His Asn Lys Ala Leu Glu Ala Asn Tyr Asp	
		1220 1225 1230
	Ala Val Lys Ala Phe Ile Asn Ala Phe Lys Lys Glu His His Gly Val	
		1235 1240 1245
15	Asn Leu Thr Thr Arg Thr Val Leu Glu Ser Gln Gly Ser Ala Glu Leu	
		1250 1255 1260
20	Ala Lys Lys Leu Lys Asn Thr Leu Leu Ser Leu Asp Ser Gly Glu Ser	
		1265 1270 1275 1280
	Met Ser Phe Ser Arg Ser Tyr Gly Gly Gly Val Ser Thr Val Phe Val	
		1285 1290 1295
25	Pro Thr Leu Ser Lys Lys Val Pro Val Pro Val Ile Pro Gly Ala Gly	
		1300 1305 1310
	Ile Thr Leu Asp Arg Ala Tyr Asn Leu Ser Phe Ser Arg Thr Ser Gly	
		1315 1320 1325
30	Gly Leu Asn Val Ser Phe Gly Arg Asp Gly Gly Val Ser Gly Asn Ile	
		1330 1335 1340
35	Met Val Ala Thr Gly His Asp Val Met Pro Tyr Met Thr Gly Lys Lys	
		1345 1350 1355 1360
	Thr Ser Ala Gly Asn Ala Ser Asp Trp Leu Ser Ala Lys His Lys Ile	
		1365 1370 1375
40	Ser Pro Asp Leu Arg Ile Gly Ala Ala Val Ser Gly Thr Leu Gln Gly	
		1380 1385 1390
	Thr Leu Gln Asn Ser Leu Lys Phe Lys Leu Thr Glu Asp Glu Leu Pro	
		1395 1400 1405
	Gly Phe Ile His Gly Leu Thr His Gly Thr Leu Thr Pro Ala Glu Leu	
		1410 1415 1420
50	Leu Gln Lys Gly Ile Glu His Gln Met Lys Gln Gly Ser Lys Leu Thr	
		1425 1430 1435 1440
	Phe Ser Val Asp Thr Ser Ala Asn Leu Asp Leu Arg Ala Gly Ile Asn	
		1445 1450 1455
55	Leu Asn Glu Asp Gly Ser Lys Pro Asn Gly Val Thr Ala Arg Val Ser	
		1460 1465 1470
60	Ala Gly Leu Ser Ala Ser Ala Asn Leu Ala Ala Gly Ser Arg Glu Arg	
		1475 1480 1485

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Ser Thr Thr Ser Gly Gln Phe Gly Ser Thr Thr Ser Ala Ser Asn Asn
 1490 1495 1500
 5 Arg Pro Thr Phe Leu Asn Gly Val Gly Ala Gly Ala Asn Leu Thr Ala
 1505 1510 1515 1520
 Ala Leu Gly Val Ala His Ser Ser Thr His Glu Gly Lys Pro Val Gly
 1525 1530 1535
 10 Ile Phe Pro Ala Phe Thr Ser Thr Asn Val Ser Ala Ala Leu Ala Leu
 1540 1545 1550
 Asp Asn Arg Thr Ser Gln Ser Ile Ser Leu Glu Leu Lys Arg Ala Glu
 1555 1560 1565
 15 Pro Val Thr Ser Asn Asp Ile Ser Glu Leu Thr Ser Thr Leu Gly Lys
 1570 1575 1580
 20 His Phe Lys Asp Ser Ala Thr Thr Lys Met Leu Ala Ala Leu Lys Glu
 1585 1590 1595 1600
 Leu Asp Asp Ala Lys Pro Ala Glu Gln Leu His Ile Leu Gln Gln His
 1605 1610 1615
 25 Phe Ser Ala Lys Asp Val Val Gly Asp Glu Arg Tyr Glu Ala Val Arg
 1620 1625 1630
 Asn Leu Lys Lys Leu Val Ile Arg Gln Gln Ala Ala Asp Ser His Ser
 1635 1640 1645
 30 Met Glu Leu Gly Ser Ala Ser His Ser Thr Thr Tyr Asn Asn Leu Ser
 1650 1655 1660
 35 Arg Ile Asn Asn Asp Gly Ile Val Glu Leu Leu His Lys His Phe Asp
 1665 1670 1675 1680
 Ala Ala Leu Pro Ala Ser Ser Ala Lys Arg Leu Gly Glu Met Met Asn
 1685 1690 1695
 40 Asn Asp Pro Ala Leu Lys Asp Ile Ile Lys Gln Leu Gln Ser Thr Pro
 1700 1705 1710
 Phe Ser Ser Ala Ser Val Ser Met Glu Leu Lys Asp Gly Leu Arg Glu
 1715 1720 1725
 45 Gln Thr Glu Lys Ala Ile Leu Asp Gly Lys Val Gly Arg Glu Glu Val
 1730 1735 1740
 50 Gly Val Leu Phe Gln Asp Arg Asn Asn Leu Arg Val Lys Ser Val Ser
 1745 1750 1755 1760
 Val Ser Gln Ser Val Ser Lys Ser Glu Gly Phe Asn Thr Pro Ala Leu
 1765 1770 1775
 55 Leu Leu Gly Thr Ser Asn Ser Ala Ala Met Ser Met Glu Arg Asn Ile
 1780 1785 1790
 Gly Thr Ile Asn Phe Lys Tyr Gly Gln Asp Gln Asn Thr Pro Arg Arg
 1795 1800 1805
 60 Phe Thr Leu Glu Gly Gly Ile Ala Gln Ala Asn Pro Gln Val Ala Ser
 1810 1815 1820

Ala Leu Thr Asp Leu Lys Lys Glu Gly Leu Glu Met Lys Ser
1825 1830 1835

5

This protein or polypeptide is about 198 kDa and has a pI of 8.98.

The present invention relates to an isolated DNA molecule having a nucleotide sequence of SEQ. ID. No. 3 as follows:

10

ATGACATCGT CACAGCAGCG GGTGAAAGG TTTTACAGT ATTTCTCCGC CGGGTGTAAG 60
ACGCCCATAC ATCTGAAAGA CGGGGTGTGC GCCCTGTATA ACGAACAAGA TGAGGAGGCG 120
15 GCGGTGCTGG AAGTACCGCA ACACAGCGAC AGCCTGTAC TACACTGCCG AATCATTGAG 180
GCTGACCCAC AAACCTCAAT AACCTGTAT TCGATGCTAT TACAGCTGAA TTTTGAAATG 240
GCGGCCATGC GCGGCTGTTG GCTGGCGCTG GATGAAGTGC ACAACGTGCG TTTATGTTTT 300
20 CAGCAGTCGC TGGAGCATCT GGATGAAGCA AGTTTTAGCG ATATCGTTAG CGGCTTCATC 360
GAACATGCGG CAGAAGTGC TGAGTATATA GCGCAATTAG ACGAGAGTAG CGCGGCATAA 420

25

This is known as the dspF gene. This isolated DNA molecule of the present invention encodes a hypersensitive response elicitor protein or polypeptide having an amino acid sequence of SEQ. ID. No. 4 as follows:

30

Met Thr Ser Ser Gln Gln Arg Val Glu Arg Phe Leu Gln Tyr Phe Ser
1 5 10 15

Ala Gly Cys Lys Thr Pro Ile His Leu Lys Asp Gly Val Cys Ala Leu
20 25 30

35

Tyr Asn Glu Gln Asp Glu Glu Ala Ala Val Leu Glu Val Pro Gln His
35 40 45

40

Ser Asp Ser Leu Leu Leu His Cys Arg Ile Ile Glu Ala Asp Pro Gln
50 55 60

Thr Ser Ile Thr Leu Tyr Ser Met Leu Leu Gln Leu Asn Phe Glu Met
65 70 75 80

45

Ala Ala Met Arg Gly Cys Trp Leu Ala Leu Asp Glu Leu His Asn Val
85 90 95

Arg Leu Cys Phe Gln Gln Ser Leu Glu His Leu Asp Glu Ala Ser Phe
100 105 110

50

Ser Asp Ile Val Ser Gly Phe Ile Glu His Ala Ala Glu Val Arg Glu
115 120 125

55

Tyr Ile Ala Gln Leu Asp Glu Ser Ser Ala Ala
130 135

This protein or polypeptide is about 16 kDa and has a pI of 4.45.

Fragments of the above hypersensitive response elicitor polypeptide or protein are encompassed by the present invention.

5 Suitable fragments can be produced by several means. In the first, subclones of the gene encoding the elicitor protein of the present invention are produced by conventional molecular genetic manipulation by subcloning gene fragments. The subclones then are expressed *in vitro* or *in vivo* in bacterial cells to yield a smaller protein or peptide that can be tested for elicitor activity according to
10 the procedure described below.

 As an alternative, fragments of an elicitor protein can be produced by digestion of a full-length elicitor protein with proteolytic enzymes like chymotrypsin or *Staphylococcus* proteinase A, or trypsin. Different proteolytic enzymes are likely to cleave elicitor proteins at different sites based on the amino acid sequence of the
15 elicitor protein. Some of the fragments that result from proteolysis may be active elicitors of resistance.

 In another approach, based on knowledge of the primary structure of the protein, fragments of the elicitor protein gene may be synthesized by using the PCR technique together with specific sets of primers chosen to represent particular
20 portions of the protein. These then would be cloned into an appropriate vector for increased expression of a truncated peptide or protein.

 Chemical synthesis can also be used to make suitable fragments. Such a synthesis is carried out using known amino acid sequences for the elicitor being produced. Alternatively, subjecting a full length elicitor to high temperatures and
25 pressures will produce fragments. These fragments can then be separated by conventional procedures (e.g., chromatography, SDS-PAGE).

 Variants may also (or alternatively) be modified by, for example, the deletion or addition of amino acids that have minimal influence on the properties, secondary structure and hydropathic nature of the polypeptide. For example, a
30 polypeptide may be conjugated to a signal (or leader) sequence at the N-terminal end of the protein which co-translationally or post-translationally directs transfer of the protein. The polypeptide may also be conjugated to a linker or other sequence for ease of synthesis, purification, or identification of the polypeptide.

Suitable DNA molecules are those that hybridize to a DNA molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence of SEQ. ID. Nos. 1 and 3, under stringent conditions. An example of suitable high stringency conditions is when hybridization is carried out at 65°C for 20 hours in a medium containing 1M NaCl, 50 mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.4, 10 mM EDTA, 0.1% sodium dodecyl sulfate, 0.2% ficoll, 0.2% polyvinylpyrrolidone, 0.2% bovine serum albumin, 50 µm g/ml *E. coli* DNA. However, any DNA molecules hybridizing to a DNA molecule comprising the nucleotide sequences of SEQ. ID. Nos. 1 and 3, under such stringent conditions must not be identical to the nucleic acids encoding the hypersensitive response elicitor proteins or polypeptides of *E. amylovora* (as disclosed by Wei, Z.-M., et al, "Harpin, Elicitor of the Hypersensitive Response Produced by the Plant Pathogen *Erwinia amylovora*," Science 257:85-88 (1992), which is hereby incorporated by reference), *Erwinia chrysanthemi* (as disclosed by Bauer, et. al., "*Erwinia chrysanthemi* Harpin_{Ech}: Soft-Rot Pathogenesis," MPMI 8(4): 484-91 (1995), which is hereby incorporated by reference), *Erwinia carotovora* (as disclosed by Cui, et. al., "The RsmA⁻ Mutants of *Erwinia carotovora* subsp. *carotovora* Strain Ecc71 Overexpress *hrpN*_{Ecc} and Elicit a Hypersensitive Reaction-like Response in Tobacco Leaves," MPMI 9(7): 565-73 (1996), which is hereby incorporated by reference), *Erwinia stewartii* (as disclosed by Ahmad, et. al., "Harpin is not Necessary for the Pathogenicity of *Erwinia stewartii* on Maize," 8th Int'l. Cong. Molec. Plant-Microb. Inter. July 14-19, 1996 and Ahmad, et. al., "Harpin is not Necessary for the Pathogenicity of *Erwinia stewartii* on Maize," Ann. Mtg. Am. Phytopath. Soc. July 27-31, 1996), which are hereby incorporated by reference), and *Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *syringae* (WO 94/26782 to Cornell Research Foundation, Inc., which is hereby incorporated by reference).

The protein or polypeptide of the present invention is preferably produced in purified form (preferably at least about 80%, more preferably 90%, pure) by conventional techniques. Typically, the protein or polypeptide of the present invention is secreted into the growth medium of recombinant host cells. Alternatively, the protein or polypeptide of the present invention is produced but not secreted into growth medium. In such cases, to isolate the protein, the host cell (e.g., *E. coli*) carrying a recombinant plasmid is propagated, lysed by sonication, heat, or

chemical treatment, and the homogenate is centrifuged to remove bacterial debris. The supernatant is then subjected to sequential ammonium sulfate precipitation. The fraction containing the polypeptide or protein of the present invention is subjected to gel filtration in an appropriately sized dextran or polyacrylamide column to separate the proteins. If necessary, the protein fraction may be further purified by HPLC.

The DNA molecule encoding the hypersensitive response elicitor polypeptide or protein can be incorporated in cells using conventional recombinant DNA technology. Generally, this involves inserting the DNA molecule into an expression system to which the DNA molecule is heterologous (i.e. not normally present). The heterologous DNA molecule is inserted into the expression system or vector in proper sense orientation and correct reading frame. The vector contains the necessary elements for the transcription and translation of the inserted protein-coding sequences.

U.S. Patent No. 4,237,224 to Cohen and Boyer, which is hereby incorporated by reference, describes the production of expression systems in the form of recombinant plasmids using restriction enzyme cleavage and ligation with DNA ligase. These recombinant plasmids are then introduced by means of transformation and replicated in unicellular cultures including procaryotic organisms and eucaryotic cells grown in tissue culture.

Recombinant genes may also be introduced into viruses, such as vaccinia virus. Recombinant viruses can be generated by transfection of plasmids into cells infected with virus.

Suitable vectors include, but are not limited to, the following viral vectors such as lambda vector system gt11, gt WES.tB, Charon 4, and plasmid vectors such as pBR322, pBR325, pACYC177, pACYC1084, pUC8, pUC9, pUC18, pUC19, pLG339, pR290, pKC37, pKC101, SV 40, pBluescript II SK +/- or KS +/- (see "Stratagene Cloning Systems" Catalog (1993) from Stratagene, La Jolla, Calif, which is hereby incorporated by reference), pQE, pIH821, pGEX, pET series (see F.W. Studier et. al., "Use of T7 RNA Polymerase to Direct Expression of Cloned Genes," Gene Expression Technology vol. 185 (1990), which is hereby incorporated by reference), and any derivatives thereof. Recombinant molecules can be introduced into cells via transformation, particularly transduction, conjugation, mobilization, or

electroporation. The DNA sequences are cloned into the vector using standard cloning procedures in the art, as described by Sambrook et al., Molecular Cloning: A Laboratory Manual, Cold Springs Laboratory, Cold Springs Harbor, New York (1989), which is hereby incorporated by reference.

5 A variety of host-vector systems may be utilized to express the protein-encoding sequence(s). Primarily, the vector system must be compatible with the host cell used. Host-vector systems include but are not limited to the following: bacteria transformed with bacteriophage DNA, plasmid DNA, or cosmid DNA; microorganisms such as yeast containing yeast vectors; mammalian cell systems
10 infected with virus (e.g., vaccinia virus, adenovirus, etc.); insect cell systems infected with virus (e.g., baculovirus); and plant cells infected by bacteria. The expression elements of these vectors vary in their strength and specificities. Depending upon the host-vector system utilized, any one of a number of suitable transcription and translation elements can be used.

15 Different genetic signals and processing events control many levels of gene expression (e.g., DNA transcription and messenger RNA (mRNA) translation).

 Transcription of DNA is dependent upon the presence of a promotor which is a DNA sequence that directs the binding of RNA polymerase and thereby promotes mRNA synthesis. The DNA sequences of eucaryotic promoters differ from
20 those of procaryotic promoters. Furthermore, eucaryotic promoters and accompanying genetic signals may not be recognized in or may not function in a procaryotic system, and, further, procaryotic promoters are not recognized and do not function in eucaryotic cells.

 Similarly, translation of mRNA in procaryotes depends upon
25 the presence of the proper procaryotic signals which differ from those of eucaryotes. Efficient translation of mRNA in procaryotes requires a ribosome binding site called the Shine-Dalgarno ("SD") sequence on the mRNA. This sequence is a short nucleotide sequence of mRNA that is located before the start codon, usually AUG, which encodes the amino-terminal methionine of the protein. The SD sequences are
30 complementary to the 3'-end of the 16S rRNA (ribosomal RNA) and probably promote binding of mRNA to ribosomes by duplexing with the rRNA to allow correct positioning of the ribosome. For a review on maximizing gene expression, see

Roberts and Lauer, Methods in Enzymology, 68:473 (1979), which is hereby incorporated by reference.

Promoters vary in their "strength" (i.e. their ability to promote transcription). For the purposes of expressing a cloned gene, it is desirable to use strong promoters in order to obtain a high level of transcription and, hence, expression of the gene. Depending upon the host cell system utilized, any one of a number of suitable promoters may be used. For instance, when cloning in *E. coli*, its bacteriophages, or plasmids, promoters such as the T7 phage promoter, *lac* promoter, *trp* promoter, *recA* promoter, ribosomal RNA promoter, the P_R and P_L promoters of coliphage lambda and others, including but not limited, to *lacUV5*, *ompF*, *bla*, *lpp*, and the like, may be used to direct high levels of transcription of adjacent DNA segments. Additionally, a hybrid *trp-lacUV5* (*tac*) promoter or other *E. coli* promoters produced by recombinant DNA or other synthetic DNA techniques may be used to provide for transcription of the inserted gene.

Bacterial host cell strains and expression vectors may be chosen which inhibit the action of the promoter unless specifically induced. In certain operations, the addition of specific inducers is necessary for efficient transcription of the inserted DNA. For example, the *lac* operon is induced by the addition of lactose or IPTG (isopropylthio-beta-D-galactoside). A variety of other operons, such as *trp*, *pro*, etc., are under different controls.

Specific initiation signals are also required for efficient gene transcription and translation in procaryotic cells. These transcription and translation initiation signals may vary in "strength" as measured by the quantity of gene specific messenger RNA and protein synthesized, respectively. The DNA expression vector, which contains a promoter, may also contain any combination of various "strong" transcription and/or translation initiation signals. For instance, efficient translation in *E. coli* requires an SD sequence about 7-9 bases 5' to the initiation codon ("ATG") to provide a ribosome binding site. Thus, any SD-ATG combination that can be utilized by host cell ribosomes may be employed. Such combinations include but are not limited to the SD-ATG combination from the *cro* gene or the *N* gene of coliphage lambda, or from the *E. coli* tryptophan E, D, C, B or A genes. Additionally, any SD-

ATG combination produced by recombinant DNA or other techniques involving incorporation of synthetic nucleotides may be used.

Once the isolated DNA molecule encoding the hypersensitive response elicitor polypeptide or protein has been cloned into an expression system, it is ready
5 to be incorporated into a host cell. Such incorporation can be carried out by the various forms of transformation noted above, depending upon the vector/host cell system. Suitable host cells include, but are not limited to, bacteria, virus, yeast, mammalian cells, insect, plant, and the like.

The present invention further relates to methods of imparting disease
10 resistance to plants, enhancing plant growth, and/or effecting insect control for plants. These methods involve applying a hypersensitive response elicitor polypeptide or protein in a non-infectious form to all or part of a plant or a plant seed under conditions where the polypeptide or protein contacts all or part of the cells of the plant or plant seed. Alternatively, the hypersensitive response elicitor protein or
15 polypeptide can be applied to plants such that seeds recovered from such plants themselves are able to impart disease resistance in plants, to enhance plant growth, and/or to effect insect control.

As an alternative to applying a hypersensitive response elicitor polypeptide or protein to plants or plant seeds in order to impart disease resistance in
20 plants, to effect plant growth, and/or to control insects on the plants or plants grown from the seeds, transgenic plants or plant seeds can be utilized. When utilizing transgenic plants, this involves providing a transgenic plant transformed with a DNA molecule encoding a hypersensitive response elicitor polypeptide or protein and growing the plant under conditions effective to permit that DNA molecule to impart
25 disease resistance to plants, to enhance plant growth, and/or to control insects. Alternatively, a transgenic plant seed transformed with a DNA molecule encoding a hypersensitive response elicitor polypeptide or protein can be provided and planted in soil. A plant is then propagated from the planted seed under conditions effective to permit that DNA molecule to impart disease resistance to plants, to enhance plant
30 growth, and/or to control insects.

The embodiment of the present invention where the hypersensitive response elicitor polypeptide or protein is applied to the plant or plant seed can be

carried out in a number of ways, including: 1) application of an isolated elicitor polypeptide or protein; 2) application of bacteria which do not cause disease and are transformed with genes encoding a hypersensitive response elicitor polypeptide or protein; and 3) application of bacteria which cause disease in some plant species (but not in those to which they are applied) and naturally contain a gene encoding the hypersensitive response elicitor polypeptide or protein.

In one embodiment of the present invention, the hypersensitive response elicitor polypeptide or protein of the present invention can be isolated from *Erwinia amylovora* as described in the Examples *infra*. Preferably, however, the isolated hypersensitive response elicitor polypeptide or protein of the present invention is produced recombinantly and purified as described *supra*.

In other embodiments of the present invention, the hypersensitive response elicitor polypeptide or protein of the present invention can be applied to plants or plant seeds by applying bacteria containing genes encoding the hypersensitive response elicitor polypeptide or protein. Such bacteria must be capable of secreting or exporting the polypeptide or protein so that the elicitor can contact plant or plant seed cells. In these embodiments, the hypersensitive response elicitor polypeptide or protein is produced by the bacteria *in planta* or on seeds or just prior to introduction of the bacteria to the plants or plant seeds.

In one embodiment of the bacterial application mode of the present invention, the bacteria do not cause the disease and have been transformed (e.g., recombinantly) with genes encoding a hypersensitive response elicitor polypeptide or protein. For example, *E. coli*, which does not elicit a hypersensitive response in plants, can be transformed with genes encoding a hypersensitive response elicitor polypeptide or protein and then applied to plants. Bacterial species other than *E. coli* can also be used in this embodiment of the present invention.

In another embodiment of the bacterial application mode of the present invention, the bacteria do cause disease and naturally contain a gene encoding a hypersensitive response elicitor polypeptide or protein. Examples of such bacteria are noted above. However, in this embodiment, these bacteria are applied to plants or their seeds which are not susceptible to the disease carried by the bacteria. For example, *Erwinia amylovora* causes disease in apple or pear but not in tomato.

However, such bacteria will elicit a hypersensitive response in tomato. Accordingly, in accordance with this embodiment of the present invention, *Erwinia amylovora* can be applied to tomato plants or seeds to enhance growth without causing disease in that species.

5 The method of the present invention can be utilized to treat a wide variety of plants or their seeds to impart disease resistance, enhance growth, and/or control insects. Suitable plants include dicots and monocots. More particularly, useful crop plants can include: alfalfa, rice, wheat, barley, rye, cotton, sunflower, peanut, corn, potato, sweet potato, bean, pea, chicory, lettuce, endive, cabbage,
10 brussel sprout, beet, parsnip, turnip, cauliflower, broccoli, turnip, radish, spinach, onion, garlic, eggplant, pepper, celery, carrot, squash, pumpkin, zucchini, cucumber, apple, pear, melon, citrus, strawberry, grape, raspberry, pineapple, soybean, tobacco, tomato, sorghum, and sugarcane. Examples of suitable ornamental plants are:
15 *Arabidopsis thaliana*, *Saintpaulia*, petunia, pelargonium, poinsettia, chrysanthemum, carnation, and zinnia.

 With regard to the use of the hypersensitive response elicitor protein or polypeptide of the present invention in imparting disease resistance, absolute immunity against infection may not be conferred, but the severity of the disease is reduced and symptom development is delayed. Lesion number, lesion size, and
20 extent of sporulation of fungal pathogens are all decreased. This method of imparting disease resistance has the potential for treating previously untreatable diseases, treating diseases systemically which might not be treated separately due to cost, and avoiding the use of infectious agents or environmentally harmful materials.

 The method of imparting pathogen resistance to plants in accordance
25 with the present invention is useful in imparting resistance to a wide variety of pathogens including viruses, bacteria, and fungi. Resistance, *inter alia*, to the following viruses can be achieved by the method of the present invention: *Tobacco mosaic virus* and *Tomato mosaic virus*. Resistance, *inter alia*, to the following bacteria can also be imparted to plants in accordance with present invention:
30 *Pseudomonas solanacearum*, *Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *tabaci*, and *Xanthomonas campestris* pv. *pelargonii*. Plants can be made resistant, *inter alia*, to the following

fungi by use of the method of the present invention: *Fusarium oxysporum* and *Phytophthora infestans*.

With regard to the use of the hypersensitive response elicitor protein or polypeptide of the present invention to enhance plant growth, various forms of plant growth enhancement or promotion can be achieved. This can occur as early as when plant growth begins from seeds or later in the life of a plant. For example, plant growth according to the present invention encompasses greater yield, increased quantity of seeds produced, increased percentage of seeds germinated, increased plant size, greater biomass, more and bigger fruit, earlier fruit coloration, and earlier fruit and plant maturation. As a result, the present invention provides significant economic benefit to growers. For example, early germination and early maturation permit crops to be grown in areas where short growing seasons would otherwise preclude their growth in that locale. Increased percentage of seed germination results in improved crop stands and more efficient seed use. Greater yield, increased size, and enhanced biomass production allow greater revenue generation from a given plot of land.

Another aspect of the present invention is directed to effecting any form of insect control for plants. For example, insect control according to the present invention encompasses preventing insects from contacting plants to which the hypersensitive response elicitor has been applied, preventing direct insect damage to plants by feeding injury, causing insects to depart from such plants, killing insects proximate to such plants, interfering with insect larval feeding on such plants, preventing insects from colonizing host plants, preventing colonizing insects from releasing phytotoxins, etc. The present invention also prevents subsequent disease damage to plants resulting from insect infection.

The present invention is effective against a wide variety of insects. European corn borer is a major pest of corn (dent and sweet corn) but also feeds on over 200 plant species including green, wax, and lima beans and edible soybeans, peppers, potato, and tomato plus many weed species. Additional insect larval feeding pests which damage a wide variety of vegetable crops include the following: beet armyworm, cabbage looper, corn ear worm, fall armyworm, diamondback moth, cabbage root maggot, onion maggot, seed corn maggot, pickleworm (melonworm), pepper maggot, and tomato pinworm. Collectively, this group of insect pests

represents the most economically important group of pests for vegetable production worldwide.

5 The method of the present invention involving application of the hypersensitive response elicitor polypeptide or protein can be carried out through a variety of procedures when all or part of the plant is treated, including leaves, stems, roots, propagules (e.g., cuttings), etc. This may (but need not) involve infiltration of the hypersensitive response elicitor polypeptide or protein into the plant. Suitable application methods include high or low pressure spraying, injection, and leaf abrasion proximate to when elicitor application takes place. When treating plant seeds, in accordance with the application embodiment of the present invention, the hypersensitive response elicitor protein or polypeptide can be applied by low or high pressure spraying, coating, immersion, or injection. Other suitable application procedures can be envisioned by those skilled in the art provided they are able to effect contact of the hypersensitive response elicitor polypeptide or protein with cells of the plant or plant seed. Once treated with the hypersensitive response elicitor of the present invention, the seeds can be planted in natural or artificial soil and cultivated using conventional procedures to produce plants. After plants have been propagated from seeds treated in accordance with the present invention, the plants may be treated with one or more applications of the hypersensitive response elicitor protein or polypeptide to impart disease resistance to plants, to enhance plant growth, and/or to control insects on the plants.

25 The hypersensitive response elicitor polypeptide or protein can be applied to plants or plant seeds in accordance with the present invention alone or in a mixture with other materials. Alternatively, the hypersensitive response elicitor polypeptide or protein can be applied separately to plants with other materials being applied at different times.

30 A composition suitable for treating plants or plant seeds in accordance with the application embodiment of the present invention contains a hypersensitive response elicitor polypeptide or protein in a carrier. Suitable carriers include water, aqueous solutions, slurries, or dry powders. In this embodiment, the composition contains greater than 500 nM hypersensitive response elicitor polypeptide or protein.

Although not required, this composition may contain additional additives including fertilizer, insecticide, fungicide, nematocide, and mixtures thereof. Suitable fertilizers include $(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{NO}_3$. An example of a suitable insecticide is Malathion. Useful fungicides include Captan.

5 Other suitable additives include buffering agents, wetting agents, coating agents, and abrading agents. These materials can be used to facilitate the process of the present invention. In addition, the hypersensitive response elicitor polypeptide or protein can be applied to plant seeds with other conventional seed formulation and treatment materials, including clays and polysaccharides.

10 In the alternative embodiment of the present invention involving the use of transgenic plants and transgenic seeds, a hypersensitive response elicitor polypeptide or protein need not be applied topically to the plants or seeds. Instead, transgenic plants transformed with a DNA molecule encoding a hypersensitive response elicitor polypeptide or protein are produced according to procedures well
15 known in the art.

 The vector described above can be microinjected directly into plant cells by use of micropipettes to transfer mechanically the recombinant DNA. Crossway, Mol. Gen. Genetics, 202:179-85 (1985), which is hereby incorporated by reference. The genetic material may also be transferred into the plant cell using
20 polyethylene glycol. Krens, et al., Nature, 296:72-74 (1982), which is hereby incorporated by reference.

 Another approach to transforming plant cells with a gene which imparts resistance to pathogens is particle bombardment (also known as biolistic transformation) of the host cell. This can be accomplished in one of several ways.
25 The first involves propelling inert or biologically active particles at cells. This technique is disclosed in U.S. Patent Nos. 4,945,050, 5,036,006, and 5,100,792, all to Sanford et al., which are hereby incorporated by reference. Generally, this procedure involves propelling inert or biologically active particles at the cells under conditions effective to penetrate the outer surface of the cell and to be incorporated within the
30 interior thereof. When inert particles are utilized, the vector can be introduced into the cell by coating the particles with the vector containing the heterologous DNA. Alternatively, the target cell can be surrounded by the vector so that the vector is

carried into the cell by the wake of the particle. Biologically active particles (e.g., dried bacterial cells containing the vector and heterologous DNA) can also be propelled into plant cells.

Yet another method of introduction is fusion of protoplasts with other entities, either minicells, cells, lysosomes or other fusible lipid-surfaced bodies. Fraley, et al., Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA, 79:1859-63 (1982), which is hereby incorporated by reference.

The DNA molecule may also be introduced into the plant cells by electroporation. Fromm et al., Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA, 82:5824 (1985), which is hereby incorporated by reference. In this technique, plant protoplasts are electroporated in the presence of plasmids containing the expression cassette. Electrical impulses of high field strength reversibly permeabilize biomembranes allowing the introduction of the plasmids. Electroporated plant protoplasts reform the cell wall, divide, and regenerate.

Another method of introducing the DNA molecule into plant cells is to infect a plant cell with *Agrobacterium tumefaciens* or *A. rhizogenes* previously transformed with the gene. Under appropriate conditions known in the art, the transformed plant cells are grown to form shoots or roots, and develop further into plants. Generally, this procedure involves inoculating the plant tissue with a suspension of bacteria and incubating the tissue for 48 to 72 hours on regeneration medium without antibiotics at 25-28°C.

Agrobacterium is a representative genus of the gram-negative family Rhizobiaceae. Its species are responsible for crown gall (*A. tumefaciens*) and hairy root disease (*A. rhizogenes*). The plant cells in crown gall tumors and hairy roots are induced to produce amino acid derivatives known as opines, which are catabolized only by the bacteria. The bacterial genes responsible for expression of opines are a convenient source of control elements for chimeric expression cassettes. In addition, assaying for the presence of opines can be used to identify transformed tissue.

Heterologous genetic sequences can be introduced into appropriate plant cells, by means of the Ti plasmid of *A. tumefaciens* or the Ri plasmid of *A. rhizogenes*. The Ti or Ri plasmid is transmitted to plant cells on infection by

Agrobacterium and is stably integrated into the plant genome. J. Schell, Science, 237:1176-83 (1987), which is hereby incorporated by reference.

After transformation, the transformed plant cells must be regenerated.

Plant regeneration from cultured protoplasts is described in Evans et al., Handbook of Plant Cell Cultures, Vol. 1: (MacMillan Publishing Co., New York, 1983); and Vasil I.R. (ed.), Cell Culture and Somatic Cell Genetics of Plants, Acad. Press, Orlando, Vol. I, 1984, and Vol. III (1986), which are hereby incorporated by reference.

It is known that practically all plants can be regenerated from cultured cells or tissues, including but not limited to, all major species of sugarcane, sugar beets, cotton, fruit trees, and legumes.

Means for regeneration vary from species to species of plants, but generally a suspension of transformed protoplasts or a petri plate containing transformed explants is first provided. Callus tissue is formed and shoots may be induced from callus and subsequently rooted. Alternatively, embryo formation can be induced in the callus tissue. These embryos germinate as natural embryos to form plants. The culture media will generally contain various amino acids and hormones, such as auxin and cytokinins. It is also advantageous to add glutamic acid and proline to the medium, especially for such species as corn and alfalfa. Efficient regeneration will depend on the medium, on the genotype, and on the history of the culture. If these three variables are controlled, then regeneration is usually reproducible and repeatable.

After the expression cassette is stably incorporated in transgenic plants, it can be transferred to other plants by sexual crossing. Any of a number of standard breeding techniques can be used, depending upon the species to be crossed.

Once transgenic plants of this type are produced, the plants themselves can be cultivated in accordance with conventional procedure with the presence of the gene encoding the hypersensitive response elicitor resulting in disease resistance, enhanced plant growth, and/or control of insects on the plant. Alternatively, transgenic seeds are recovered from the transgenic plants. These seeds can then be planted in the soil and cultivated using conventional procedures to produce transgenic plants. The transgenic plants are propagated from the planted transgenic seeds under

conditions effective to impart disease resistance to plants, to enhance plant growth, and/or to control insects. While not wishing to be bound by theory, such disease resistance, growth enhancement, and/or insect control may be RNA mediated or may result from expression of the elicitor polypeptide or protein.

5 When transgenic plants and plant seeds are used in accordance with the present invention, they additionally can be treated with the same materials as are used to treat the plants and seeds to which a hypersensitive response elicitor polypeptide or protein is applied. These other materials, including hypersensitive response elicitors, can be applied to the transgenic plants and plant seeds by the above-noted procedures, including high or low pressure spraying, injection, coating, and immersion. Similarly, after plants have been propagated from the transgenic plant seeds, the plants may be treated with one or more applications of the hypersensitive response elicitor to impart disease resistance, enhance growth, and/or control insects. Such plants may also be treated with conventional plant treatment agents (e.g., insecticides, fertilizers, etc.).

15 Another aspect of the present invention is to utilize the subject elicitor proteins or polypeptides to design molecules that will inactivate, destroy, or bind to these proteins or polypeptides. Since these elicitors are found in plant pathogens, particularly *Erwinia amylovora*, the pathogens themselves can be neutralized by the designed molecules so that disease and/or hypersensitive response is prevented or altered. Examples of disease preventing molecules are antibodies, such as monoclonal or polyclonal antibodies, raised against the elicitor proteins or polypeptides of the present invention or binding portions thereof. Other examples of disease preventing molecules include antibody fragments, half-antibodies, hybrid derivatives, probes, and other molecular constructs.

25 Monoclonal antibody production may be effected by techniques which are well-known in the art. Basically, the process involves first obtaining immune cells (lymphocytes) from the spleen of a mammal (e.g., mouse) which has been previously immunized, either *in vivo* or *in vitro*, with the antigen of interest (e.g., an elicitor protein or polypeptide of the present invention or binding portions thereof). The antibody-secreting lymphocytes are then fused with (mouse) myeloma cells or transformed cells, which are capable of replicating indefinitely in cell culture, thereby producing an immortal, immunoglobulin-secreting cell line. The resulting fused cells,

or hybridomas, are cultured, and the resulting colonies screened for the production of the desired monoclonal antibodies. Colonies producing such antibodies are cloned, and grown either *in vivo* or *in vitro* to produce large quantities of antibody. A description of the theoretical basis and practical methodology of fusing such cells is set forth in Kohler and Milstein, Nature 256:495 (1975), which is hereby incorporated by reference.

Mammalian lymphocytes are immunized by *in vivo* immunization of the animal (e.g., a mouse) with the elicitor proteins or polypeptides of the present invention or binding portions thereof. Such immunizations are repeated as necessary at intervals of up to several weeks to obtain a sufficient titer of antibodies. Following the last antigen boost, the animals are sacrificed and spleen cells removed.

Fusion with mammalian myeloma cells or other fusion partners capable of replicating indefinitely in cell culture is effected by standard and well-known techniques, for example, by using polyethylene glycol ("PEG") or other fusing agents (See Milstein and Kohler, Eur. J. Immunol. 6:511 (1976), which is hereby incorporated by reference). This immortal cell line, which is preferably murine, but may also be derived from cells of other mammalian species, including but not limited to rats, is selected to be deficient in enzymes necessary for the utilization of certain nutrients, to be capable of rapid growth, and to have good fusion capability. Many such cell lines are known to those skilled in the art, and others are regularly described.

Procedures for raising polyclonal antibodies are also well known. Typically, such antibodies can be raised by administering the elicitor proteins or polypeptides of the present invention or binding portions thereof subcutaneously to New Zealand white rabbits which have first been bled to obtain pre-immune serum. The antigens can be injected at a total volume of 100 µl per site at six different sites. Each injected material will contain synthetic surfactant adjuvant pluronic polyols, or pulverized acrylamide gel containing the protein or polypeptide after SDS-polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis. The rabbits are then bled two weeks after the first injection and periodically boosted with the same antigen three times every six weeks. A sample of serum is then collected 10 days after each boost. Polyclonal antibodies are then recovered from the serum by affinity chromatography using the

corresponding antigen to capture the antibody. Ultimately, the rabbits are euthenized with pentobarbital 150 mg/Kg IV. This and other procedures for raising polyclonal antibodies are disclosed in E. Harlow, et. al., editors, Antibodies: A Laboratory Manual (1988), which is hereby incorporated by reference.

5 In addition to utilizing whole antibodies, the processes of the present invention encompass use of binding portions of such antibodies. Such binding portions include Fab fragments, F(ab')₂ fragments, and Fv fragments. These antibody fragments can be made by conventional procedures, such as proteolytic fragmentation procedures, as described in J. Goding, Monoclonal Antibodies: Principles and
10 Practice, pp. 98-118 (N.Y. Academic Press 1983), which is hereby incorporated by reference.

Alternatively, the processes of the present invention can utilize probes or ligands found either in nature or prepared synthetically by recombinant DNA procedures or other biological or molecular procedures. Suitable probes or ligands
15 are molecules which bind to the elicitor proteins or polypeptides of the present invention or binding portions thereof.

Avirulence (*avr*) genes (see Vivian, A., et al, Microbiology, 143:693-704 (1997); Leach, J. E., et al., Annu. Rev. Phytopathol., 34:153-179 (1996); Dangl, J. L. "Bacterial Pathogenesis of Plants and Animals: Molecular and Cellular
20 Mechanisms," in Current Topics in Microbiology and Immunology, Dangl, J. L., ed. (Springer, Berlin), Vol. 192, pp. 99-118 (1994), which are hereby incorporated by reference) generate signals that trigger defense responses leading to disease resistance in plants with corresponding resistance (*R*) genes. Typically, *avr* genes are isolated by expressing a cosmid library from one pathogen in another pathogen and screening
25 for narrowed host range. *avr* genes traditionally have been considered as negative determinants of host specificity at the race-cultivar level, but some, including the *avrE* locus from the bacterial speck pathogen *Pseudomonas syringae* pathovar (pv.) tomato (Kobayashi, D. Y., et al., Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA, 86:157-61 (1989), which is hereby incorporated by reference), restrict host range at the pathovar-species or
30 species-species level (Whalen, M. C., et al., Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA, 85:6743-47 (1988); Swarup, S., et al., Mol. Plant-Microbe Interact., 5:204-13 (1992), which are hereby incorporated by reference). Many *avr* genes, including *avrE*, are Hrp

regulated. *avrE* and *avrPphE* (Mansfield, J., et al., Mol. Plant-Microbe Interact., 7:726-39 (1994), which is hereby incorporated by reference) are physically linked to *hrp* genes.

When expressed *in trans*, the *avrE* locus renders *P. syringae* pv. glycinea, which causes bacterial blight of soybean, avirulent in all cultivars (Lorang, J. M., et al., Mol. Plant-Microbe Interact., 8:49-57 (1995), which is hereby incorporated by reference). The locus comprises two convergent transcription units, one preceded by a putative σ^{54} promoter and the other by a *hrp* box, a sequence found upstream of many *hrp* and *avr* genes that are positively regulated by the alternate
5 sigma factor HrpL (Innes, R. W., et al., J. Bacteriol., 175:4859-69 (1993); Shen, H., et al., J. Bacteriol., 175:5916-24 (1993); Xiao, Y., et al., J. Bacteriol., 176:3089-91 (1994), which are hereby incorporated by reference). Expression of both transcripts require HrpL. The *avrE* locus contributes quantitatively to the virulence in tomato leaves of *P. syringae* pv. tomato strain PT23, but not of strain DC3000 (Lorang, J. M.,
10 et al., Mol. Plant-Microbe Interact., 8:49-57 (1995); Lorang, J. M., et al., Mol. Plant-Microbe Interact. 7:508-515 (1994)).

Thus, *avr* genes in plant pathogens bind to disease resistance genes in plants which are not susceptible to that pathogen. In view of the homology of the DNA molecules of the present invention to *avr* genes in plant pathogens, these DNA
20 molecules can be used to identify corresponding plant disease resistance genes. Such identification is carried out by traditional plant breeding techniques in which a pathogen carrying the *avr* gene is inoculated to plants in screening to track inheritance or identify disruption of the resistance. Once identified, the resistance gene can be isolated by either of two approaches that have proved successful in recent years (see
25 Staskawicz et al., Science, 68:661-67 (1995)). These are positional or map-based cloning and insertional mutagenesis or transposon tagging. Because there may be no *DspE*-insensitive cultivars (susceptible to *Pseudomonas* harboring *dspE*; each of four soybean cultivars tested responded to *dspE*), map-based cloning (which requires crosses between susceptible and resistant lines to identify the position of the
30 resistance gene relative to other genes) may not be feasible. The preferred approach would more likely involve insertional mutagenesis, using the *dspE* gene or protein in

screens to identify lines which had lost the the product of dspE due to transposon tagging of the corresponding resistance gene.

EXAMPLES

5

Example 1 - Recombinant DNA techniques.

Isolation of DNA, restriction enzyme digests, ligation, transformation of *Escherichia coli*, and construction of and colony hybridization to screen a *P. syringae* pv. tomato DC3000 genomic library were performed as described by
10 Sambrook, et al. (Sambrook, J., et al., Molecular cloning: A Laboratory manual, (Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, Cold Spring Harbor, NY) (1989), which is hereby incorporated by reference). The library was constructed using pCPP47 (Bauer, D. W., et al., Mol. Plant-Microbe Interact., 10:369-379 (1997), which is hereby incorporated by reference). Except where noted, *E. coli* DH5 and *E. coli* DH5 α were used as hosts
15 for DNA clones, and pBluescript or pBC plasmids (Stratagene, La Jolla, CA) were used as vectors. *E. amylovora* was transformed by electroporation as described (Bauer, D. W. in "Molecular Genetics of Pathogenicity of *Erwinia amylovora*: Techniques, Tools and Their Applications", (Ph. D. Thesis), Cornell University, Ithaca, NY (1990), which is hereby incorporated by reference). Plasmids were
20 mobilized into *E. amylovora* and *P. syringae* using pRK2013 (Figurski, D., et al., Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 76:1648-1652 (1979), which is hereby incorporated by reference).

Example 2 - Nucleotide sequencing and analysis.

25 The nucleotide sequence of the dsp region of *E. amylovora* strain Ea321 was determined using subclones of pCPP430 (Beer, S. V., et al., in Advances in Molecular Genetics of Plant-Microbe Interactions, Hennecke, H., et al., eds. (Kluwer Academic Publishers, Dordrecht, The Netherlands), pp. 53-60 (1991), which is hereby incorporated by reference). The nucleotide sequence of the *avrE* locus was
30 determined using subclones of pCPP2357, a clone selected from a *P. syringae* pv. tomato DC3000 genomic cosmid library based on hybridization with the *hrpRS* operon of *P. syringae* pv. syringae, and the finding, based on partial sequencing, that it contained the *avrE* locus. Nucleotide sequencing was performed by the Cornell

Biotechnology Sequencing Facility on a Model 377 Sequencer (Perkin Elmer/Applied Biosystems Division, Foster City, CA). Sequence assembly, analysis, and comparisons were performed using the programs of the GCG software package, version 7.1 (Genetics Computer Groups, Inc., Madison, WI) and DNASTAR (DNASTAR, Inc., Madison, WI). Database searches were performed using BLAST (Altschul, S. F., et al., Proc. Nat. Acad. Sci. USA, 87:5509-5513 (1990) which is hereby incorporated by reference).

Example 3 - Expression of DspE and DspE' in *E. coli*.

The dspE operon was cloned in two pieces into pCPP50, a derivative of PINIII¹¹³-A2 (Duffaud, G. D., et al. in Methods in Enzymology, Wu, R., et al., eds. (Academic Press, New York), 153:492-50 (1987), which is hereby incorporated by reference) with an expanded polylinker, yielding pCPP1259. Expression in pCPP1259 is driven by the *Ipp* promoter of *E. coli*, under the control of the *lac* operator. An intermediate clone, pCPP1244, extending from the start of the operon to the *Bam*HI site in the middle of *dspE*, also was isolated. *E. coli* DH5 α strains containing pCPP1259 and pCPP1244 were grown in LB at 37°C to an OD₆₂₀ of 0.3. Isopropylthio- β -D-galactoside then was added to 1 mM, and the cells further incubated until reaching an OD₆₂₀ of 0.5. Cells were concentrated two-fold, lysed and subjected to SDS-PAGE as previously described (Sambrook, J., et al., Molecular cloning: A Laboratory Manual (Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, Cold Spring Harbor, NY) (1989), which is hereby incorporated by reference), using 7.5% acrylamide. Cells containing pCPP50 were included for comparison. Proteins were visualized by Coomassie staining.

Example 4 - Deletion mutagenesis of *dspE*.

1554 bp were deleted from the 5' *Hind*III-*Bam*HI fragment of *dspE* in pCPP1237 using unique *Stu*I and *Sma*I sites. The mutagenized clone then was inserted into the suicide vector pKNG101 (Kaniga, K., et al., Gene, 109:137-42 (1991), which is hereby incorporated by reference) using *E. coli* SM10 λ *pir* as a host, yielding pCPP1241. The mutation, designated Δ 1554, then was transferred into *E. amylovora* strains using marker eviction as described previously (Bogdanove, A. J.,

et al., J. Bacteriol., 178:1720-30 (1996), which is hereby incorporated by reference). 1521 bp were deleted from the 3' *HindIII* fragment of *dspE* in pCPP1246 using two *BstEII* sites blunted with Klenow fragment. This mutation, $\Delta 1521$, was transferred into *E. amylovora* strains as above.

5

Example 5 - Pathogenicity assays.

For *E. amylovora* strains, cell suspensions of 5×10^8 colony-forming units (cfu) per ml were pipetted into wells cut in immature Bartlett pear fruit, or stabbed into Jonamac apple and cotoneaster shoots, and assays carried out as described previously (Beer, S. V., in Methods in Phytobacteriology, Klement, Z., et al., eds. (Adadémiai Kiadó, Budapest), pp. 373-374 (the "1990"); Aldwinckle, H. S., et al., Phytopathology, 66:1439-44 (1976), which are hereby incorporated by reference). For *P. syringae* pv. *glycinea*, panels of primary leaves of 2-week-old soybean seedlings (*Glycine max*, cultivar Norchief) were infiltrated with bacterial suspensions of 8×10^5 cfu/ml as for the HR assay, below. Plants were then covered with clear plastic bags and incubated under fluorescent lights (16 hr/day) at 22°C for 5-7 days. Leaves were scored for necrosis and chlorosis.

Example 6 - HR assays.

Tobacco leaf panels (*Nicotiana tabacum* L. 'xanthi') were infiltrated with bacterial cell suspensions as described previously (Wei, Z. M., et al., Science, 257:85-88 (1992); Bauer, D. W., et al., Mol. Plant-Microbe Interact., 4:493-99 (1991), which are hereby incorporated by reference). Primary leaves of 2-week-old soybean seedlings (secondary leaves emerging) were infiltrated with bacterial cell suspensions as for tobacco. Plants were scored for HR (tissue collapse) after 24-48 hr on the laboratory bench. *E. amylovora* strains were suspended in 5 mM KPO₄ buffer, pH 6.8, and *P. syringae* strains in 10 mM MgCl₂.

Example 7 - GUS assays.

Cells were 1.) grown in LB to an OD₆₂₀ of 0.9-1.0; 2.) grown in LB to an OD₆₂₀ of 0.5, then washed and resuspended in a *hrp*-gene-inducing minimal medium (Hrp MM; Huynh, T. V., et al., Science, 345:1374-77 (1989), which is

hereby incorporated by reference) to an OD₆₂₀ of 0.2 and incubated at 21° C for 36 hr to a final OD₆₂₀ of 0.9-1.0; or 3.) grown in LB to an OD₆₂₀ of 0.5, washed and concentrated 2-fold in 5 mM KPO₄ buffer, pH 6.8, and then transferred to freshly cut wells in pear halves and incubated as for the pathogenicity assay for 36 hr. Cells were
5 assayed for β-glucuronidase (GUS) activity essentially according to Jefferson (Jefferson, R. A., Plant Molecular Biology Reporter, 5:387-405 (1987), which is hereby incorporated by reference). For the cells in LB or Hrp MM, 50 μl were mixed with 200 μl GUS extraction buffer (50 mM NaHPO₄, pH 7.0, 10 mM β-mercaptoethanol, 10 mM Na₂EDTA, 0.1% sodium lauryl sarcosine, 0.1% Triton
10 X-100) containing 2 mM 4-methylumbelliferyl β-D-glucuronide as substrate and incubated at 37° C for 100 min. For cells in pear fruit, the tissue surrounding the well was excised using a #4 cork borer and homogenized in 5 mM KPO₄ buffer, pH 6.8. 200 μl of homogenate was mixed with 800 μl of GUS extraction buffer with substrate and incubated as above. Reactions were stopped by adding Na₂CO₃ to a final
15 concentration of 0.2 M in a total volume of 2 ml. Fluorescence was measured using a TKO 100 Mini-Fluorometer (Hoefer Scientific Instruments, San Francisco, CA). For all samples, cell concentration was estimated by dilution plating, and fluorometric readings were converted to pmole of substrate hydrolyzed/10⁸ cfu/min, after Miller (Miller, J. H., A Short Course in Bacterial Genetics: A Laboratory Manual and
20 Handbook for Escherichia coli and Related Bacteria (Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press, Plainview, NY) (1992), which is hereby incorporated by reference).

Example 8 - The “disease-specific” (dsp) region of *E. amylovora* consists of a 6.6 kb, two-gene operon.

25 Mapping of previous transposon insertions (Steinberger, E. M., et al., Mol. Plant-Microbe Interact., 1:135-44 (1988), which is hereby incorporated by reference) that abolish pathogenicity but not HR-eliciting ability confirmed the presence of the “disease specific” (dsp) region downstream of the *hrpN* gene in strain Ea321 as reported in strain CFBP1430 (Barny, A. M., et al., Mol. Microbiol., 4:777-
30 86 (1990), which is hereby incorporated by referece). The sequence of approximately 15 kb of DNA downstream of *hrpN* from Ea321 was determined, revealing several open reading frames (ORFs’ Fig. 1). One ORF, in an apparent 6.6 kb operon with a

smaller ORF, spanned the area to which the *dsp* insertions mapped. These two ORFs were designated *dspE* and *dspF*, and the operon, *dspE*. *dspE* is preceded (beginning 70 bp upstream of the initiation codon) by the sequence GGAACCN₁₅CAACATAA (SEQ. ID. No. 5), which matches the HrpL-dependent promoter consensus sequence or “*hrpbox*” of *E. amylovora* (Kim, J. H., et al., *J. Bacteriol.*, 179:1690-97 (1997); Kim, J. H., et al., *J. Bacteriol.*, 179:1690-97 (1997), which are hereby incorporated by reference) and strongly resembles the *hrp* box of *P. syringae* *hrp* and *avr* genes (Xiao, Y., et al., *J. Bacteriol.*, 176:3089-91 (1994), which is hereby incorporated by reference). Immediately downstream of *dspF* is A/T-rich DNA, followed by an ORF (ORF7) highly similar to the *Salmonella typhimurium* gene *spvR*, a member of the *lysR* family of regulatory genes (Caldwell, A. L. & Gulig, P. A., *J. Bacteriol.*, 173:7176-85 (1991), which is hereby incorporated by reference). Immediately upstream of the *dspE* operon is a Hrp-regulated gene, *hrpW*, encoding a novel harpin.

The deduced product of *dspE* contains 1838 amino acid residues and is hydrophilic. The predicted molecular weight, 198 kD, was confirmed by expression in *E. coli* (Fig. 2). Expression of an intermediate clone containing only the 5' half of *dspE* yielded a protein of corresponding predicted mobility, suggesting that the N-terminal half of the protein might form an independently stable domain. *DspF*, predicted to be 16 kD, acidic (pI, 4.45), and predominantly α -helical, with amphipathic α helices in its C-terminus, is physically similar to virulence factor chaperones of animal-pathogenic bacteria (Wattiau, P., et al., *Mol. Microbiol.*, 20:255-62 (1996), which is hereby incorporated by reference).

Example 9 - *dspE* is required for fire blight.

Two in-frame deletions within *dspE* (Fig. 1) were made in Ea321 and Ea273 (low- and high-virulence strains, respectively). The first (Δ 1554) corresponds to amino acid residues G₂₀₃ to G₇₂₀, and the second (Δ 1521) to amino acid residues T₁₀₆₄ to V₁₅₇₀. Each deletion abolished the ability of both strains to cause fire blight when inoculated to immature pear fruit (Fig. 3), apple shoots, or cotoneaster shoots. Δ 1554 was complemented by a clone carrying only the overlapping 5' half of *dspE*, further suggesting that the N-terminus of the protein forms a stable domain (Figs. 1 and 3).

Example 10 - The *dspE* operon contributes quantitatively and in a strain-dependent fashion to HR elicitation by *E. amylovora* in tobacco and is not required for HR elicitation by *E. amylovora* in soybean.

Transposon insertions in the *dsp* region reduce the ability of *E. amylovora* to elicit the HR in tobacco (Barny, A. M., et al., Mol. Microbiol., 4:777-86 (1990), which is hereby incorporated by reference). Dilution series of suspensions of *dspE*Δ1554 mutant strains of Ea321 and Ea273 were infiltrated into tobacco leaves alongside their wild-type parents to assess the role of *dspE* in HR elicitation (Fig. 3). All strains were capable of eliciting the HR, but Ea321 *dspE*Δ1554, on a per-cell basis, was roughly one-tenth as effective as the wild-type in eliciting tissue collapse. There was no noticeable difference in HR-eliciting activity, however, between Ea273 and Ea273*dspE*Δ1554. Ea321*dspE*Δ1554 elicited wild-type HR in Acme, Centennial, Harasoy, and Norchief soybean leaves (Fig. 3).

Example 11 - The *dspE* operon is Hrp-regulated.

A promoterless *uidA* gene construct was cloned downstream of the *dspE* fragment in pCPP1241 that was used to introduce the Δ1554 mutation (Fig. 1) into wild-type strains of *E. amylovora* (this construct consists of a 3'-truncated *dspE* gene with the internal deletion). The resulting plasmid, pCPP1263, was mobilized into Ea321 and Ea273. Pathogenic strains, in which plasmid integration had preserved an intact copy of *dspE*, and non-pathogenic strains, in which the native copy of *dspE* had been mutated, were isolated. All strains were assayed for GUS activity in Luria Bertani medium (LB) and in Hrp MM, and pathogenic strains were assayed for activity in pear fruit. High levels of activity were obtained from strains incubated in Hrp MM and pear, but not LB. The level of expression in Hrp MM was equivalent to that of a *hrcV-uidA* fusion ("G73", Wei, et al., J. Bacteriol., 177:6201-10 (1995), which is hereby incorporated by reference) used as a positive control. There were no significant differences in levels of expression of the *dspE-uidA* fusion in the wild-type and *dspE* mutant backgrounds, indicating that *dspE* likely is not autoregulated. Expression of the *dspE-uidA* fusion in *hrpL* mutants of Ea321 and

Ea273 in *hrp* MM was two orders of magnitude lower than that in HrpL + strains. Data for Ea273 and derivatives are shown in Fig. 4.

5 **Example 12 - *dspE* and *dspF* are homologous with genes in the *avrE* locus of *Pseudomonas syringae* pv. tomato.**

A BLAST (Altschul, S. F., et al., J. Mol. Biol., 215:403-10 (1990), which is hereby incorporated by reference) search of the genetic databases revealed similarity of *dspE* to a partial sequence of the *avrE* locus of *P. syringae* pv. tomato (Lorang, J. M., et al., Mol. Plant-Microbe Interact., 8:49-57 (1995), which is hereby
10 incorporated by reference). A cosmid library of *P. syringae* pv. tomato DC3000 genomic DNA was constructed, and a clone overlapping the *hrp* gene cluster and containing the *avrE* locus was isolated (pCPP2357). The complete nucleotide sequence of the *avrE* locus was determined, revealing the homolog of *dspE* (encoding a 195 kD, 1795 amino acid protein of 30% identity) alone in an operon previously
15 designated transcription unit III, and a homolog of *dspF* (encoding a 14 kD, a 129 amino acid protein of 43% identity) at the end of the juxtaposed and opposing operon previously designated transcription unit IV (Fig. 1). These genes are designated *avrE* and *avrF*. The C-terminal half of the DspE and AvrE alignment (from V₈₄₅ of DspE) shows greater conservation (33% identity) than the N-terminal half (26% identity).
20 AvrE contains a motif (aa residues A₄₅₀ to T₄₅₇) conserved in ATP- or GTP-binding proteins ("P-loop"; Saraste, M., et al., Trends Biochem. Sci., 15:430-34 (1990), which is hereby incorporated by reference). This motif is not conserved in DspE, however, and its functional significance in AvrE, if any, is unclear. Amino acid identities are distributed equally throughout the DspF and AvrF alignment, and AvrF shares the
25 predicted physical characteristics of DspF. Upstream of *avrF*, competing the operon, is a 2.5 kb gene with no similarity to sequences in the genetic databases.

Example 13 - The *dspE* operon functions as an avirulence locus.

The *dspE* operon was cloned into pML 122 (Labes, M., et al., Gene,
30 89:37-46 (1990), which is hereby incorporated by reference) downstream of the *nptII* promoter, and this construct, pCPP1250, was mobilized into *P. syringae* pv. glycinea race 4. The resulting strain, but not a control strain containing pML 122, elicited the HR in soybean cultivars Acme, Centennial, Harasoy, and Norchief; in Norchief plants

incubated under conducive conditions, race 4 harboring pCPP1250 failed to cause symptoms of disease, while the control strain caused necrosis and chlorosis that spread from the point of inoculation (Fig. 5).

5 **Example 14 - *avrE* complements *dspE* mutations.**

Cosmid pCPP2357 was mobilized into Ea321 *dspE* mutant strains Δ 1554 and Δ 1521. The resulting transconjugants were pathogenic but low in virulence. Ea321*dspE* Δ 1521 carrying pCPP2357 with a transposon insertion in the *avrE* gene was non-pathogenic, demonstrating that the complementation observed
10 was *avrE*-specific (Figs. 1 and 5). The same results were observed for transconjugants of the Ea273*dspE* Δ 1521 mutant.

Over thirty bacterial *avr* genes have been discovered. The plethora of *avr* genes is thought to result from an "evolutionary tug-of-war" (Dangl, J. L., in Bacterial Pathogenesis of Plants and Animals: Molecular and Cellular Mechanisms
15 (Current Topics in Microbiology and Immunology), Dangl, J. L., ed. (Springer, Berlin), 192:99-118 (1994), which is hereby incorporated by reference), a reiterative process of selection, counterselection due to *R* genes, and modification or substitution of *avr* genes that was originally discerned by Flor, who hypothesized that "during
20 their parallel evolution host and parasite developed complementary genic systems" (Flor, H. H., Adv. Genet., 8:29-54 (1956), which is hereby incorporated by reference). However, only a few *avr* genes (including *avrE* in strain PT23) play detectable roles in virulence or pathogen fitness in their native genetic background (Lorang, J. M., et al., Mol. Plant-Microbe Interact., 7:508-15 (1994); Kearney, B., et al., Nature,
25 346:385-86 (1990); Swarup, S., et al., Phytopathology, 81:802-808 (1991); De Feyter, R. D., et al., Mol. Plant-Microbe Interact., 6:225-37 (1993); Ritter, C., et al., Mol. Plant-Microbe Interact., 8:444-53 (1995), which are hereby incorporated by reference), and the selective force driving the maintenance in pathogen genomes of many of these host-range-limiting factors has remained a mystery. It is now clear, though, that several Avr proteins are delivered into plant cells by the Hrp pathway
30 (Gopalan, S., et al., Plant Cell, 8:1095-1105 (1996); Tang, X., et al., Science, 274:2060-63 (1996); Scofield, S. R., et al., Science, 274:2063-65 (1996); Leister, R. T., et al., Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA, 93:15497-15502 (1996); Van Den Ackerveken,

G., et al., Cell, 87:1307-16 (1996), which are hereby incorporated by reference) and, therefore, are likely to be fundamentally virulence factors, which interact (directly, or indirectly through enzymatic products) with host targets to promote parasitism.

5 Mutation of such targets (selected because of reduced susceptibility) as well as the evolution of R proteins that recognize the Avr proteins would force the acquisition or evolution of new or modified Avr proteins and result in the proliferation of *avr* genes. Cumulatively, these co-evolutionary processes likely would drive a trend toward *avr* genes with quantitative and redundant effects in pathogenesis rather than critically important roles (Alfano, J. R., et al., Plant Cell, 8:1683-16988 (1996), which is hereby
10 incorporated by reference).

It has been found that the homologs *dspE* and *avrE* contribute to disease to dramatically different extents. The avirulence locus can substitute transgenerically for the pathogenicity operon, and that the avirulence function of *dspE* extends across pathogen genera as well. These findings support the hypothesis that
15 *avr* genes have a primary function in disease. Moreover, they support and expand the coevolutionary model for *avr* gene proliferation discussed above, and they have practical implications concerning the control of fire blight and other bacterial diseases of perennials.

One can predict from the model that the relative contribution to
20 pathogenicity of a particular factor would reflect, in part, the genetic history of the pathogen, specifically, the degree of co-evolution with its host(s). *dspE* is required for pathogenicity; *avrE* has a quantitative, strain-dependent, virulence phenotype. Consistent with the prediction, evolution of corresponding R genes and modification of targets of pathogen virulence factors is likely to have occurred more often and to a
25 greater extent over time in the herbaceous hosts typically infected by *P. syringae* pathovars than in the woody hosts with which *E. amylovora* presumably evolved. Alternatively or additionally, acquisition of *dspE* (through evolution or horizontal transfer) by *E. amylovora* could have occurred relatively more recently than acquisition of *avrE* by *P. syringae*, allowing less time for coevolution leading to
30 modification or the development of redundant function.

One could also hypothesize from the model that virulence factors may be conserved among pathogens, yet individually adapted to avoid detection on a

particular host. Preliminary results from Southern blot hybridizations suggest that *P. syringae* pv. *glycinea* harbors an *avrE* homolog, which, if functional, would support such a hypothesis. Similarly, homologs of the soybean cultivar-specific genes *avrA* and *avrD* from *P. syringae* pv. *tomato* exist in *P. syringae* pv. *glycinea* (Kobayashi, D. Y., et al., Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA, 86:157-161 (1989), which is hereby incorporated by reference).

The homology and abilities of *dspE* and *avrE* to function transgenerically expand the model for *avr* gene proliferation. Major components of an evolution toward multifactor virulence could be procurement of genes encoding novel virulence factors from heterologous pathogens, and conservation of a functionally cosmopolitan virulence factor delivery system (and possibly conservation of a universal Hrp-pathway-targeting signal on the factors themselves) that would enable their deployment. Indeed, many *avr* genes are on plasmids and scattered in their distribution among pathogen strains (Dangl, J. L., in Bacterial Pathogenesis of Plants and Animals: Molecular and Cellular Mechanisms (Current Topics in Microbiology and Immunology), Dangl, J. L., ed. (Springer, Berlin), 192:99-118 (1994), which is hereby incorporated by reference), and individual *hrp* genes are conserved and even interchangeable (Arlat, M., et al., Mol. Plant-Microbe Interact., 4:593-601 (1991); Laby, R. J., et al., Mol. Plant-Microbe Interact., 5:412-19 (1992), which is hereby incorporated by reference). The presence of *dspE* and *avrE* in distinct genera suggests horizontal transfer of an ancestral locus, and, although *dspE* and *avrE* are homologous and *hrp*-linked, the transgeneric function of these genes suggests that the Hrp pathways in *E. amylovora* and *P. syringae* have remained insensitive to differences accrued in DspE and AvrE over evolution. It is predicted that even non-homologous Avr-like proteins will function across phytopathogenic bacterial genera.

It remains to be shown whether the avirulence function of the *dspE* locus is Hrp-pathway-dependent. This seems likely, and it will be important to determine the localization of the *dspE* and *dspF* gene products in the plant-bacterial interaction. The physical similarity of DspF (and AvrF) to chaperones required for type III secretion of virulence factors from animal-pathogenic bacteria (Wattiau, P., et al., Mol. Microbiol., 20:255-62 (1996), which is hereby incorporated by reference) is

intriguing and novel in phytopathogenic bacteria. The requirement of these chaperones appears to be due to a role other than targeting to the secretion pathway (Woestyn, S., et al., Mol. Microbiol., 20:1261-71 (1996), which is hereby incorporated by reference): chaperones may stabilize proteins, maintain proteins in an appropriate conformation for secretion, or prevent premature polymerization or association with other proteins. Perhaps, DspF binds to DspE (and AvrF to AvrE) and plays a similar role, which might be particularly important for the latter protein due to its large size and probable multidomain nature.

The *dspE* operon is the first described avirulence locus in *E. amylovora*. A homolog of *avrRxx* from *Xanthomonas campestris* (Whalen, M. C., et al., Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA, 85:6743-47 (1988), which is hereby incorporated by reference) has been found near the *dspE* operon (Kim, J. F., in Molecular Characterization of a Novel Harpin and Two hrp Secretory Operons of Erwinia amylovora, and a hrp Operon of E. chrysanthemi (Ph.D. Thesis), Cornell University, Ithaca, NY (1997)). Monogenic (*R*-gene-mediated) resistance to fire blight has not been reported, but differential virulence of *E. amylovora* strains on apple cultivars has been observed (Norelli, J. L., et al., Phytopathology, 74:136-39 (1984), which is hereby incorporated by reference). Also, some strains of *E. amylovora* infect *Rubus* spp. and not pomaceous plants, and vice-versa (Starr, M. P., et al., Phytopathology, 41:915-19 (1951), which is hereby incorporated by reference). Whether the *dspE* operon and the *avrRxx* homolog or other potential elicitors play a role in these specificities should be determined.

Although the *dspE* operon triggers defense responses in soybean when expressed in *P. syringae* pv. *glycinea*, it is not required for the HR of soybean elicited by *E. amylovora*. Neither is *hrpN* required (Fig. 3). It is possible that *E. amylovora* must have one or the other, *dspE* or *hrpN*, to elicit the HR in soybean. It has been observed, however, that purified harpin does not elicit the HR in soybean, suggesting the alternative explanation that *E. amylovora* harbors another *avr* gene recognized by this plant.

Recognition of *E. amylovora* avirulence signals in soybean indicates the presence of one or more *R* genes that might be useful for engineering fire blight resistant apple and pear trees. *R*-gene-mediated resistance to the apple scab pathogen

Venturia inaequalis (Williams, E. B., et al., Ann. Rev. Phytopathol., 7:223-46 (1969), which is hereby incorporated by reference) and successful transformation of apple with attacin E for control of fire blight (Norelli, J. L., et al., Euphytica, 77:123-28 (1994), which is hereby incorporated by reference) attest the feasibility of such an approach. *R* gene-mediated resistance to apple scab has been overcome in the field (Parisi, L., et al., Phytopathology, 83:533-37 (1993), which is hereby incorporated by reference), but the requirement for *dspE* in disease favors relative durability of a *dspE*-specific *R* gene (Kearney, B. et al., Nature, 346:385-86 (1990), which is hereby incorporated by reference). Avirulence screening of *dspE* and other *E. amylovora* genes in pathogens of genetically tractable plants such as *Arabidopsis* could broaden the pool of candidate *R* genes and hasten their isolation. A similar approach could be used to isolate *R* genes effective against other diseases of woody plants. Furthermore, if the *dspE* operon is as widely conserved as is suggested by its homology with the *avrE* locus, a corresponding *R* gene could be effective against a variety of pathogens both of woody and herbaceous plants.

Native (non-denatured) DspE protein has not been produced in sufficient quantity to test its ability to elicit the HR (i.e. hypersensitive response) in a manner similar to hypersensitive response elicitors (i.e., by exogenous application). Therefore, no one has shown that *dspE* of *E. amylovora* elicits the HR when applied to plants as an isolated cell-free material. However, when the gene encoding the protein is transferred to another bacterium (along with the smaller *dspF* gene), e.g., *Pseudomonas syringae*, which ordinarily causes disease on certain plants, the recipient bacterium no longer causes disease but instead elicits the HR. The mechanism for this is not known for sure, but it is suspected to involve (and there is compelling evidence for) a mechanism in which the bacterial cell actually injects the DspE protein into the living plant cell, triggering the development of plant cell collapse (i.e. HR). Presumably, when the DspE protein is in the living plant cell, it might signal the plant to develop resistance to insects and pathogens.

Based on the similarity of the predicted physical characteristics of DspF to those of known chaperone proteins from animal pathogens, it is believed that this rather small protein is a chaperone of DspE. Chaperones in animal pathogens bind in the cytoplasm to specific proteins to be secreted. They seem to be required for

secretion of the proteins but are not themselves secreted. Evidence suggests that the chaperones are not involved directly in targeting the secreted proteins to the secretion apparatus. Instead, they may act to stabilize the proteins in the cytoplasm and/or prevent their premature aggregation or association with other proteins (e.g., bacterial proteins that direct transport through the host cell-membrane).

The dspE gene bears no similarity to known genes except avrE. Enzymatic function (i.e., one resulting in the production of a secondary molecule that elicits the HR) of DspE cannot be ruled out at present. In fact, one avr gene product is known to elicit HR indirectly by catalyzing synthesis of a diffusible elicitor molecule. However, the simplest explanation for the observed HR eliciting function of the dspE operon expressed in *Pseudomonas* species is that the protein encoded by the dspE gene is secreted from the bacterium and possibly transported into the plant cell, that there it triggers directly plant defense responses leading to the HR, and that this process is mediated by a specific resistance gene product that recognizes (acts as a receptor of) the DspE protein. Indeed, four avr genes that depend on the Hrp secretory apparatus to function when expressed in bacteria have been shown to cause HR when expressed transgenically within plant cells. One of these has been shown to encode a protein that directly interacts with the product of its corresponding resistance gene. Ultimately, whether DspE elicits plant defense responses from outside or inside the plant cell, directly or through a secondary molecule, must be determined in order to define practical applications of this protein and its encoding gene as a plant defense elicitor.

Although the invention has been described in detail for the purpose of illustration, it is understood that such detail is solely for that purpose, and variations can be made therein by those skilled in the art without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention which is defined by the following claims.

SEQUENCE LISTING

(1) GENERAL INFORMATION:

- (i) APPLICANT: Bogdanove, Adam J.
Kim, Jihyun Francis
Wei, Zhong-Min
Beer, Steven V.
- (ii) TITLE OF INVENTION: HYPERSENSITIVE RESPONSE ELICITOR FROM
ERWINIA AMYLOVORA, ITS USE, AND
ENCODING GENE
- (iii) NUMBER OF SEQUENCES: 5
- (iv) CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS:
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 - (B) STREET: P.O. Box 1051, Clinton Square
 - (C) CITY: Rochester
 - (D) STATE: New York
 - (E) COUNTRY: U.S.A.
 - (F) ZIP: 14603
- (v) COMPUTER READABLE FORM:
 - (A) MEDIUM TYPE: Floppy disk
 - (B) COMPUTER: IBM PC compatible
 - (C) OPERATING SYSTEM: PC-DOS/MS-DOS
 - (D) SOFTWARE: PatentIn Release #1.0, Version #1.30
- (vi) CURRENT APPLICATION DATA:
 - (A) APPLICATION NUMBER:
 - (B) FILING DATE:
 - (C) CLASSIFICATION:
- (vii) PRIOR APPLICATION DATA:
 - (A) APPLICATION NUMBER: US 60/055,105
 - (B) FILING DATE: 06-AUG-1997
- (viii) ATTORNEY/AGENT INFORMATION:
 - (A) NAME: Goldman, Michael L.
 - (B) REGISTRATION NUMBER: 30,727
 - (C) REFERENCE/DOCKET NUMBER: 19603/1661
- (ix) TELECOMMUNICATION INFORMATION:
 - (A) TELEPHONE: (716) 263-1304
 - (B) TELEFAX: (716) 263-1600

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:1:

- (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
 - (A) LENGTH: 5517 base pairs
 - (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
 - (C) STRANDEDNESS: single

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: DNA (genomic)

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GCTGCATCAT	TGGCGGCAGA	AGGCAAAAAT	CGTGGGAAAA	TGCCGAGAAT	TCACCAGCCA	180
TCTACTGCGG	CTGATGGTAT	CAGCGCTGCT	CACCAGCAAA	AGAAATCCTT	CAGTCTCAGG	240
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GAGGCGGCCG	CGCCAGATGC	GGCGCGTTTG	ACCCGTTTCG	GCGGCGTCAA	ACGCCGCAAT	420
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AGCAACAGCG CTGCTATGAG CATGGAGCGC AACATCGGAA CCATTAATTT TAAATACGGC 5400
CAGGATCAGA ACACCCCACG GCGATTACC CTGGAGGGTG GAATAGCTCA GGCTAATCCG 5460
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(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:2:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 1838 amino acids
- (B) TYPE: amino acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS:
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: protein

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:2:

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1 5 10 15
Ala Ala His Asn Pro Val Gly His Gly Val Ala Leu Gln Gln Gly Ser
20 25 30
Ser Ser Ser Ser Pro Gln Asn Ala Ala Ala Ser Leu Ala Ala Glu Gly
35 40 45
Lys Asn Arg Gly Lys Met Pro Arg Ile His Gln Pro Ser Thr Ala Ala
50 55 60
Asp Gly Ile Ser Ala Ala His Gln Gln Lys Lys Ser Phe Ser Leu Arg
65 70 75 80
Gly Cys Leu Gly Thr Lys Lys Phe Ser Arg Ser Ala Pro Gln Gly Gln
85 90 95
Pro Gly Thr Thr His Ser Lys Gly Ala Thr Leu Arg Asp Leu Leu Ala
100 105 110
Arg Asp Asp Gly Glu Thr Gln His Glu Ala Ala Ala Pro Asp Ala Ala
115 120 125
Arg Leu Thr Arg Ser Gly Gly Val Lys Arg Arg Asn Met Asp Asp Met
130 135 140
Ala Gly Arg Pro Met Val Lys Gly Gly Ser Gly Glu Asp Lys Val Pro
145 150 155 160
Thr Gln Gln Lys Arg His Gln Leu Asn Asn Phe Gly Gln Met Arg Gln
165 170 175
Thr Met Leu Ser Lys Met Ala His Pro Ala Ser Ala Asn Ala Gly Asp
180 185 190
Arg Leu Gln His Ser Pro Pro His Ile Pro Gly Ser His His Glu Ile
195 200 205

Lys Glu Glu Pro Val Gly Ser Thr Ser Lys Ala Thr Thr Ala His Ala
210 215 220

Asp Arg Val Glu Ile Ala Gln Glu Asp Asp Asp Ser Glu Phe Gln Gln
225 230 235 240

Leu His Gln Gln Arg Leu Ala Arg Glu Arg Glu Asn Pro Pro Gln Pro
245 250 255

Pro Lys Leu Gly Val Ala Thr Pro Ile Ser Ala Arg Phe Gln Pro Lys
260 265 270

Leu Thr Ala Val Ala Glu Ser Val Leu Glu Gly Thr Asp Thr Thr Gln
275 280 285

Ser Pro Leu Lys Pro Gln Ser Met Leu Lys Gly Ser Gly Ala Gly Val
290 295 300

Thr Pro Leu Ala Val Thr Leu Asp Lys Gly Lys Leu Gln Leu Ala Pro
305 310 315 320

Asp Asn Pro Pro Ala Leu Asn Thr Leu Leu Lys Gln Thr Leu Gly Lys
325 330 335

Asp Thr Gln His Tyr Leu Ala His His Ala Ser Ser Asp Gly Ser Gln
340 345 350

His Leu Leu Leu Asp Asn Lys Gly His Leu Phe Asp Ile Lys Ser Thr
355 360 365

Ala Thr Ser Tyr Ser Val Leu His Asn Ser His Pro Gly Glu Ile Lys
370 375 380

Gly Lys Leu Ala Gln Ala Gly Thr Gly Ser Val Ser Val Asp Gly Lys
385 390 395 400

Ser Gly Lys Ile Ser Leu Gly Ser Gly Thr Gln Ser His Asn Lys Thr
405 410 415

Met Leu Ser Gln Pro Gly Glu Ala His Arg Ser Leu Leu Thr Gly Ile
420 425 430

Trp Gln His Pro Ala Gly Ala Ala Arg Pro Gln Gly Glu Ser Ile Arg
435 440 445

Leu His Asp Asp Lys Ile His Ile Leu His Pro Glu Leu Gly Val Trp
450 455 460

Gln Ser Ala Asp Lys Asp Thr His Ser Gln Leu Ser Arg Gln Ala Asp
465 470 475 480

Gly Lys Leu Tyr Ala Leu Lys Asp Asn Arg Thr Leu Gln Asn Leu Ser
485 490 495

Asp Asn Lys Ser Ser Glu Lys Leu Val Asp Lys Ile Lys Ser Tyr Ser
500 505 510

Val Asp Gln Arg Gly Gln Val Ala Ile Leu Thr Asp Thr Pro Gly Arg
515 520 525

His Lys Met Ser Ile Met Pro Ser Leu Asp Ala Ser Pro Glu Ser His
530 535 540

0005.F.90" 4.92.95.55.55

Ile Ser Leu Ser Leu His Phe Ala Asp Ala His Gln Gly Leu Leu His
545 550 555 560

Gly Lys Ser Glu Leu Glu Ala Gln Ser Val Ala Ile Ser His Gly Arg
565 570 575

Leu Val Val Ala Asp Ser Glu Gly Lys Leu Phe Ser Ala Ala Ile Pro
580 585 590

Lys Gln Gly Asp Gly Asn Glu Leu Lys Met Lys Ala Met Pro Gln His
595 600 605

Ala Leu Asp Glu His Phe Gly His Asp His Gln Ile Ser Gly Phe Phe
610 615 620

His Asp Asp His Gly Gln Leu Asn Ala Leu Val Lys Asn Asn Phe Arg
625 630 635 640

Gln Gln His Ala Cys Pro Leu Gly Asn Asp His Gln Phe His Pro Gly
645 650 655

Trp Asn Leu Thr Asp Ala Leu Val Ile Asp Asn Gln Leu Gly Leu His
660 665 670

His Thr Asn Pro Glu Pro His Glu Ile Leu Asp Met Gly His Leu Gly
675 680 685

Ser Leu Ala Leu Gln Glu Gly Lys Leu His Tyr Phe Asp Gln Leu Thr
690 695 700

Lys Gly Trp Thr Gly Ala Glu Ser Asp Cys Lys Gln Leu Lys Lys Gly
705 710 715 720

Leu Asp Gly Ala Ala Tyr Leu Leu Lys Asp Gly Glu Val Lys Arg Leu
725 730 735

Asn Ile Asn Gln Ser Thr Ser Ser Ile Lys His Gly Thr Glu Asn Val
740 745 750

Phe Ser Leu Pro His Val Arg Asn Lys Pro Glu Pro Gly Asp Ala Leu
755 760 765

Gln Gly Leu Asn Lys Asp Asp Lys Ala Gln Ala Met Ala Val Ile Gly
770 775 780

Val Asn Lys Tyr Leu Ala Leu Thr Glu Lys Gly Asp Ile Arg Ser Phe
785 790 795 800

Gln Ile Lys Pro Gly Thr Gln Gln Leu Glu Arg Pro Ala Gln Thr Leu
805 810 815

Ser Arg Glu Gly Ile Ser Gly Glu Leu Lys Asp Ile His Val Asp His
820 825 830

Lys Gln Asn Leu Tyr Ala Leu Thr His Glu Gly Glu Val Phe His Gln
835 840 845

Pro Arg Glu Ala Trp Gln Asn Gly Ala Glu Ser Ser Ser Trp His Lys
850 855 860

Ala	Leu	Gly	Val	Ala	His	Ser	Ser	Thr	His	Glu	Gly	Lys	Pro	Val	Gly	1525	1530	1535
Ile	Phe	Pro	Ala	Phe	Thr	Ser	Thr	Asn	Val	Ser	Ala	Ala	Leu	Ala	Leu	1540	1545	1550
Asp	Asn	Arg	Thr	Ser	Gln	Ser	Ile	Ser	Leu	Glu	Leu	Lys	Arg	Ala	Glu	1555	1560	1565
Pro	Val	Thr	Ser	Asn	Asp	Ile	Ser	Glu	Leu	Thr	Ser	Thr	Leu	Gly	Lys	1570	1575	1580
His	Phe	Lys	Asp	Ser	Ala	Thr	Thr	Lys	Met	Leu	Ala	Ala	Leu	Lys	Glu	1585	1590	1600
Leu	Asp	Asp	Ala	Lys	Pro	Ala	Glu	Gln	Leu	His	Ile	Leu	Gln	Gln	His	1605	1610	1615
Phe	Ser	Ala	Lys	Asp	Val	Val	Gly	Asp	Glu	Arg	Tyr	Glu	Ala	Val	Arg	1620	1625	1630
Asn	Leu	Lys	Lys	Leu	Val	Ile	Arg	Gln	Gln	Ala	Ala	Asp	Ser	His	Ser	1635	1640	1645
Met	Glu	Leu	Gly	Ser	Ala	Ser	His	Ser	Thr	Thr	Tyr	Asn	Asn	Leu	Ser	1650	1655	1660
Arg	Ile	Asn	Asn	Asp	Gly	Ile	Val	Glu	Leu	Leu	His	Lys	His	Phe	Asp	1665	1670	1680
Ala	Ala	Leu	Pro	Ala	Ser	Ser	Ala	Lys	Arg	Leu	Gly	Glu	Met	Met	Asn	1685	1690	1695
Asn	Asp	Pro	Ala	Leu	Lys	Asp	Ile	Ile	Lys	Gln	Leu	Gln	Ser	Thr	Pro	1700	1705	1710
Phe	Ser	Ser	Ala	Ser	Val	Ser	Met	Glu	Leu	Lys	Asp	Gly	Leu	Arg	Glu	1715	1720	1725
Gln	Thr	Glu	Lys	Ala	Ile	Leu	Asp	Gly	Lys	Val	Gly	Arg	Glu	Glu	Val	1730	1735	1740
Gly	Val	Leu	Phe	Gln	Asp	Arg	Asn	Asn	Leu	Arg	Val	Lys	Ser	Val	Ser	1745	1750	1760
Val	Ser	Gln	Ser	Val	Ser	Lys	Ser	Glu	Gly	Phe	Asn	Thr	Pro	Ala	Leu	1765	1770	1775
Leu	Leu	Gly	Thr	Ser	Asn	Ser	Ala	Ala	Met	Ser	Met	Glu	Arg	Asn	Ile	1780	1785	1790
Gly	Thr	Ile	Asn	Phe	Lys	Tyr	Gly	Gln	Asp	Gln	Asn	Thr	Pro	Arg	Arg	1795	1800	1805
Phe	Thr	Leu	Glu	Gly	Gly	Ile	Ala	Gln	Ala	Asn	Pro	Gln	Val	Ala	Ser	1810	1815	1820
Ala	Leu	Thr	Asp	Leu	Lys	Lys	Glu	Gly	Leu	Glu	Met	Lys	Ser			1825	1830	1835

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:3:

- (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
 (A) LENGTH: 420 base pairs
 (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
 (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
 (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: DNA (genomic)

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:3:

ATGACATCGT CACAGCAGCG GGTGAAAGG TTTTACAGT ATTCTCCGC CGGGTGTA	60
ACGCCCATAC ATCTGAAAGA CGGGGTGTGC GCCCTGTATA ACGAACAAGA TGAGGAGGCG	120
GCGGTGCTGG AAGTACCGCA ACACAGCGAC AGCCTGTTAC TACTGTCCG AATCATTGAG	180
GCTGACCCAC AAACCTCAAT AACCTGTAT TCGATGCTAT TACAGCTGAA TTTGAAATG	240
GCGGCCATGC GCGGCTGTTG GCTGGCGCTG GATGAACTGC ACAACGTGCG TTTATGTTTT	300
CAGCAGTCGC TGGAGCATCT GGATGAAGCA AGTTTTCGCG ATATCGTTAG CGGCTTCATC	360
GAACATGCGG CAGAAGTGCG TGAGTATATA GCGCAATTAG ACGAGAGTAG CGCGGCATAA	420

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:4:

- (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
 (A) LENGTH: 139 amino acids
 (B) TYPE: amino acid
 (C) STRANDEDNESS:
 (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: protein

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:4:

Met Thr Ser Ser Gln Gln Arg Val Glu Arg Phe Leu Gln Tyr Phe Ser	
1 5 10 15	
Ala Gly Cys Lys Thr Pro Ile His Leu Lys Asp Gly Val Cys Ala Leu	
20 25 30	
Tyr Asn Glu Gln Asp Glu Glu Ala Ala Val Leu Glu Val Pro Gln His	
35 40 45	
Ser Asp Ser Leu Leu Leu His Cys Arg Ile Ile Glu Ala Asp Pro Gln	
50 55 60	
Thr Ser Ile Thr Leu Tyr Ser Met Leu Leu Gln Leu Asn Phe Glu Met	
65 70 75 80	
Ala Ala Met Arg Gly Cys Trp Leu Ala Leu Asp Glu Leu His Asn Val	
85 90 95	

Tyr Ile Ala Gln Leu Asp Glu Ser Ser Ala Ala
130 135

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:5:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 29 base pairs
(B) TYPE: nucleic acid
(C) STRANDEDNESS: single
(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: DNA (genomic)

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:5:

GGAACCNNNN NNNNNNNNNN NCAACATAA

WHAT IS CLAIMED:

1. An isolated DNA molecule encoding a hypersensitive response eliciting protein or polypeptide, wherein the isolated DNA molecule is selected from the group consisting of (a) a DNA molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence of SEQ. ID. Nos. 1 or 3, (b) a DNA molecule encoding a protein comprising an amino acid of SEQ. ID. Nos. 2 or 4, (c) a DNA molecule which hybridizes to a DNA molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence of SEQ. ID. Nos. 1 or 3, under stringent conditions, and (d) a DNA molecule complementary to DNA molecules (a), (b), and (c).
2. An isolated DNA molecule according to claim 1, wherein said DNA molecule is a DNA molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence of SEQ. ID. Nos. 1 or 3.
3. An isolated DNA molecule according to claim 1, wherein said DNA molecule is a DNA molecule encoding protein comprising an amino acid of SEQ. ID. Nos. 2 or 4.
4. An isolated DNA molecule according to claim 1, wherein said DNA molecule is a DNA molecule which hybridizes to a DNA molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence of SEQ. ID. Nos. 1 or 3, under stringent conditions.
5. An isolated DNA molecule according to claim 1, wherein said DNA molecule is a DNA molecule complementary to DNA molecules (a), (b), and (c).
6. An expression vector transformed with the DNA molecule of claim 1.
7. An expression vector according to claim 6, wherein the DNA molecule is in proper sense orientation and correct reading frame.
8. A host cell transformed with the DNA molecule of claim 1.

9. A host cell according to claim 8, wherein the host cell is selected from the group consisting of a plant cell or a bacterial cell.

10. A host cell according to claim 8, wherein the DNA molecule is transformed with an expression vector.

11. A transgenic plant transformed with the DNA molecule of claim 1.

12. A transgenic plant according to claim 11, wherein the plant is selected from the group consisting of alfalfa, rice, wheat, barley, rye, cotton, sunflower, peanut, corn, potato, sweet potato, bean, pea, chicory, lettuce, endive, cabbage, brussel sprout, beet, parsnip, turnip, cauliflower, broccoli, turnip, radish, spinach, onion, garlic, eggplant, pepper, celery, carrot, squash, pumpkin, zucchini, cucumber, apple, pear, melon, citrus, strawberry, grape, raspberry, pineapple, soybean, tobacco, tomato, sorghum, and sugarcane.

13. A transgenic plant according to claim 11, wherein the plant is selected from the group consisting of *Arabidopsis thaliana*, *Saintpaulia*, petunia, pelargonium, poinsettia, chrysanthemum, carnation, and zinnia.

14. A transgenic plant seed transformed with the DNA molecule of claim 1.

15. A transgenic plant seed according to claim 14, wherein the plant seed is selected from the group consisting of alfalfa, rice, wheat, barley, rye, cotton, sunflower, peanut, corn, potato, sweet potato, bean, pea, chicory, lettuce, endive, cabbage, brussel sprout, beet, parsnip, turnip, cauliflower, broccoli, turnip, radish, spinach, onion, garlic, eggplant, pepper, celery, carrot, squash, pumpkin, zucchini, cucumber, apple, pear, melon, citrus, strawberry, grape, raspberry, pineapple, soybean, tobacco, tomato, sorghum, and sugarcane.

16. A transgenic plant seed according to claim 14, wherein the plant seed is selected from the group consisting of *Arabidopsis thaliana*, *Saintpaulia*, petunia, pelargonium, poinsettia, chrysanthemum, carnation, and zinnia.

17. An isolated hypersensitive response eliciting protein or polypeptide selected from the group consisting of a protein or polypeptide having an amino acid sequence comprising SEQ. ID. Nos. 2 or 4, and an amino acid sequence
5 encoded by a nucleic acid which hybridizes to a DNA molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence of SEQ. ID. Nos. 1 or 3.

18. An isolated protein or polypeptide according to claim 17, wherein the protein or polypeptide has an amino acid sequence comprising SEQ. ID.
10 Nos. 2 or 4.

19. An isolated protein or polypeptide according to claim 17, wherein the protein or polypeptide is encoded by a nucleic acid which hybridizes to a DNA molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence of SEQ. ID. Nos. 1 or 3.
15

20. A method of imparting disease resistance to plants comprising: applying a protein or polypeptide according claim 17 in a non-infectious form to a plant or plant seed under conditions effective to impart disease resistance.
20

21. A method according to claim 20, wherein plants are treated during said applying.

22. A method according to claim 20, wherein plant seeds are
25 treated during said applying, said method further comprising:
planting the seeds treated with the hypersensitive response elicitor in natural or artificial soil and
propagating plants from the seeds planted in the soil.

23. A method of enhancing plant growth comprising:
30 applying a protein or polypeptide according claim 17 in a non-infectious form to a plant or plant seed under conditions effective to enhance plant growth.

24. A method according to claim 23, wherein plants are treated during said applying.

25. A method according to claim 23, wherein plant seeds are
5 treated during said applying, said method further comprising:
planting the seeds treated with the hypersensitive response
elicitor in natural or artificial soil and
propagating plants from the seeds planted in the soil.

10 26. A method of insect control for plants comprising:
applying a protein or polypeptide according claim 17 in a non-
infectious form to a plant or plant seed under conditions effective to control insects.

27. A method according to claim 26, wherein plants are treated
15 during said applying.

28. A method according to claim 26, wherein plant seeds are
treated during said applying, said method further comprising:
planting the seeds treated with the hypersensitive response
20 elicitor in natural or artificial soil and
propagating plants from the seeds planted in the soil.

29. A method of imparting disease resistance to plants comprising:
providing a transgenic plant or plant seed transformed with a
25 DNA molecule according to claim 1 and
growing the transgenic plant or transgenic plants produced
from the transgenic plant seeds under conditions effective to impart disease resistance.

30. A method according to claim 29, wherein a transgenic plant is
30 provided.

31. A method according to claim 29, wherein a transgenic plant
seed is provided.

32. A method of enhancing plant growth comprising:
providing a transgenic plant or plant seed transformed with a
DNA molecule according to claim 1 and
growing the transgenic plant or transgenic plants produced
5 from the transgenic plant seeds under conditions effective to enhance plant growth.
33. A method according to claim 32, wherein a transgenic plant is
provided.
- 10 34. A method according to claim 32, wherein a transgenic plant
seed is provided.
35. A method of insect control for plants comprising:
providing a transgenic plant or plant seed transformed with a
15 DNA molecule according to claim 1 and
growing the transgenic plant or transgenic plants produced
from the transgenic plant seeds under conditions effective to control insects.
- 20 36. A method according to claim 35, wherein a transgenic plant is
provided.
37. A method according to claim 35, wherein a transgenic plant
seed is provided.
- 25 38. A composition comprising:
a protein or polypeptide according to claim 17 and
a carrier.
39. A composition according to claim 38 further comprising an
30 additive selected from the group consisting of fertilizer, insecticide, fungicide,
nematacide, and mixtures thereof.
40. An antibody or binding portion thereof which recognizes a protein
or polypeptide according to claim 17.

41. An antibody or binding portion thereof according to claim 40,
wherein the antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

42. An antibody or binding portion thereof according to claim 40,
5 wherein the antibody is a polyclonal antibody.

43. A method to alter the disease or hypersensitive response in a
plant comprising:
providing the plant with an antibody or binding portion thereof
10 according to claim 40 and
causing the antibody or binding portion thereof to bind to a
hypersensitive response elicitor protein or polypeptide under conditions effective to
alter disease or hypersensitive response.

The present invention is directed to an isolated protein or polypeptide which elicits a hypersensitive response in plants as well as an isolated DNA molecule which encodes the hypersensitive response eliciting protein or polypeptide. This isolated protein or polypeptide and the isolated DNA molecule can be used to impart disease resistance to plants, to enhance plant growth, and/or to control insects on plants. This can be achieved by applying the hypersensitive response elicitor protein or polypeptide in a non-infectious form to plants or plant seeds under conditions effective to impart disease resistance, to enhance plant growth, and/or to control insects on plants or plants grown from the plant seeds. Alternatively, transgenic plants or plant seeds transformed with a DNA molecule encoding a hypersensitive response elicitor protein or polypeptide can be provided and the transgenic plants or plants resulting from the transgenic plant seeds are grown under conditions effective to impart disease resistance, to enhance plant growth, and/or to control insects on plants or plants grown from the plant seeds.

EXPRESS MAIL CERTIFICATE

DOCKET NO.: 19603/3296 (CRF D-2098B)
APPLICANTS: Adam J. Bogdanove, Jihyun Francis Kim, Zhong-Min Wei, and
Steven V. Beer
TITLE: **HYPERSENSITIVE RESPONSE ELICITOR FROM
ERWINIA AMYLOVORA, ITS USE, AND ENCODING GENE**

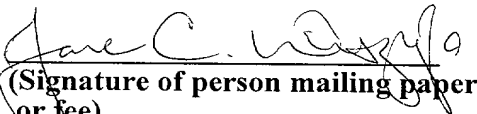
Certificate is attached to the copy of the **Informal Drawings (5 pages)** as filed in the prior application of the above-named application.

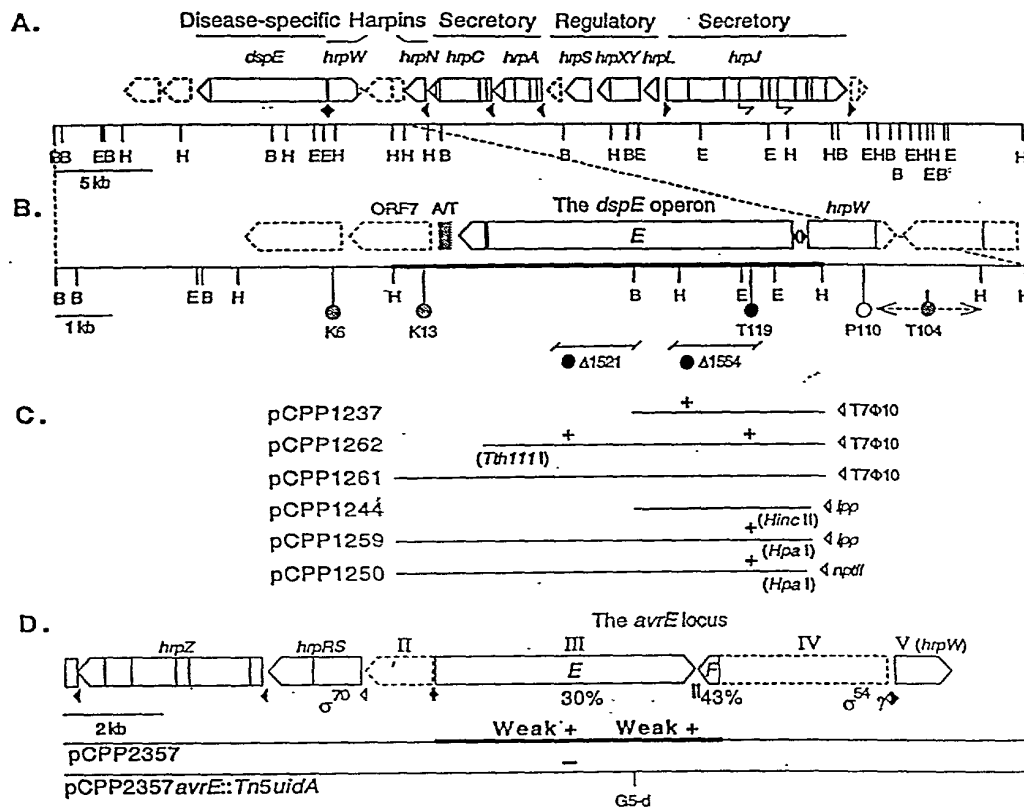
EXPRESS MAIL NUMBER: **EL542863819US**

DATE OF DEPOSIT: **June 19, 2000**

I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, Box: Patent Application.

Jane C. Wirszyla
(Typed or printed name of person
mailing paper or fee)


(Signature of person mailing paper
or fee)



FIGURES 1A-D

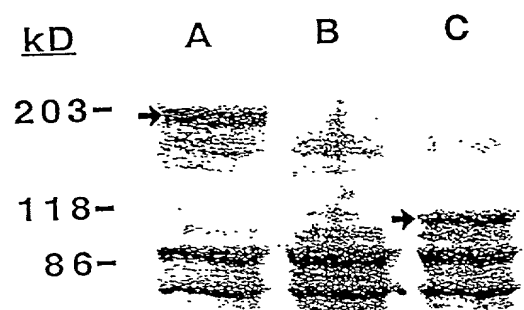


FIGURE 2

FIGURES 3A-D

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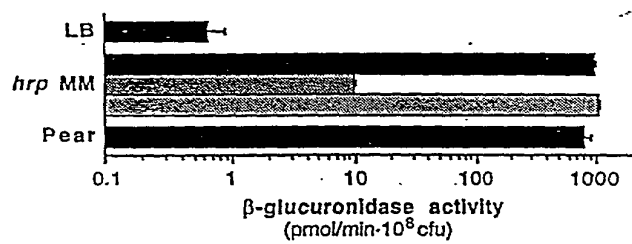
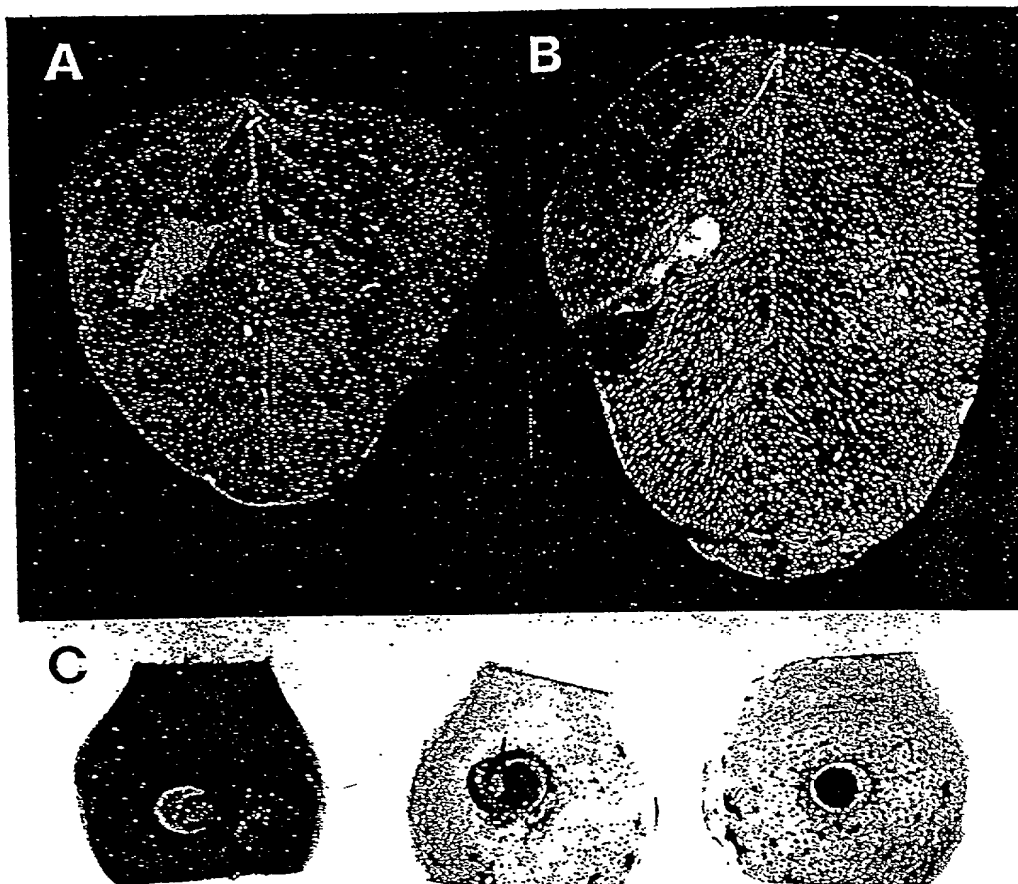


FIGURE 4



FIGURES 5A-C

EXPRESS MAIL CERTIFICATE

DOCKET NO.: 19603/3296 (CRF D-2098B)

APPLICANTS: Adam J. Bogdanove, Jihyun Francis Kim, Zhong-Min Wei, and Steven V. Beer

TITLE: **HYPERSENSITIVE RESPONSE ELICITOR FROM *ERWINIA AMYLOVORA*, ITS USE, AND ENCODING GENE**

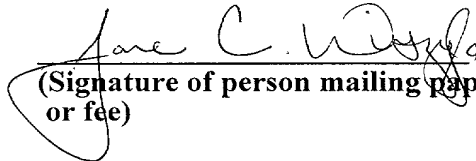
Certificate is attached to the copy of the **Two SIGNED Combined Declaration and Power of Attorney forms (2 pages each)** as filed in the prior application of the above-named application.

EXPRESS MAIL NUMBER: EL542863819US

DATE OF DEPOSIT: June 19, 2000

I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, Box: Patent Application.

Jane C. Wirszyla
(Typed or printed name of person
mailing paper or fee)


(Signature of person mailing paper
or fee)

SUPPLEMENTAL COMBINED DECLARATION FOR PATENT
APPLICATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY
(Includes Reference to PCT International Applications)

ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER
19603/1661 (CRF D-2098A)

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

HYPERSENSITIVE RESPONSE ELICITOR FROM *ERWINIA AMYLOVORA*, ITS USE, AND ENCODING GENE

the specification of which (check only one item below):

☐ is attached hereto.

☒ was filed as U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/120,663 on July 22, 1998 and was amended under PCT Article 19 on _____ (if applicable).

☐ was filed as PCT International Application No. _____ on _____ and was amended under PCT Article 19 on _____ (if applicable).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specifications, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56(a).

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, § 119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate or of any PCT international application(s) designating at least one country other than the United States listed below and have also identified below any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate or any PCT international application(s) designating at least one country other than the United States of America filed by me on the same subject matter having a filing date before that of the application(s) of which priority is claimed:

PRIOR FOREIGN/PCT APPLICATION(S) AND ANY PRIORITY CLAIMS UNDER 35 U.S.C. 119:

COUNTRY (IF PCT, indicate "PCT")	APPLICATION NUMBER	DATE OF FILING (day, month, year)	PRIORITY CLAIMED UNDER 35 USC 119
United States	60/055,106	06-AUG-1997	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
			<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
			<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, § 120 of any United States application(s) or PCT international application(s) designating the United States of America that is/are listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in that/those prior application(s) in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, § 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56(a) which occurred between the filing date of the prior application(s) and the national or PCT International filing date of this application:

PRIOR U.S. APPLICATIONS OR PCT INTERNATIONAL APPLICATIONS DESIGNATING THE U.S. FOR BENEFIT UNDER 35 U.S.C. 120:

U.S. APPLICATIONS		STATUS (Check One)			
U.S. APPLICATION NUMBER	U.S. FILING DATE	PATENTED	PENDING	ABANDONED	
PCT APPLICATIONS DESIGNATING THE U.S.					
PCT APPLICATION NO.	PCT FILING DATE	U.S. SERIAL NUMBERS ASSIGNED (if any)			

COMBINED DECLARATION FOR PATENT APPLICATION
AND POWER OF ATTORNEY (Continue)

ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER

19603/1661 (CRF D-2098A)

POWER OF ATTORNEY: As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agent(s) to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith. Michael L. Goldman, Registration No. 30,727; Gunnar G. Leinberg, Registration No. 35,584; Dennis M. Connolly, Registration No. 40,964; Edwin V. Merkel, Registration No. 40,087; Georgia Caton, Registration No. 44,597; Grant E. Pollack, Registration No. 34,097

Send Correspondence to:

Michael L. Goldman
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Clinton Square, P.O. Box 1051
Rochester, New York 14603

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(name and telephone number)

Michael L. Goldman
(716) 263-1304

201	FULL NAME OF INVENTOR	FAMILY NAME	FIRST GIVEN NAME	SECOND GIVEN NAME
	RESIDENCE & CITIZENSHIP	CITY	STATE/FOREIGN COUNTRY	COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP
	POST OFFICE ADDRESS	P.O. ADDRESS	CITY	STATE & ZIP CODE/CTRY
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	POST OFFICE ADDRESS	P.O. ADDRESS	CITY	STATE & ZIP CODE/CTRY
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203	FULL NAME OF INVENTOR	FAMILY NAME	FIRST GIVEN NAME	SECOND GIVEN NAME
	RESIDENCE & CITIZENSHIP	CITY	STATE/FOREIGN COUNTRY	COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP
	POST OFFICE ADDRESS	P.O. ADDRESS	CITY	STATE & ZIP CODE/CTRY
		Wei	Zhong-Min	
		Kirkland	Washington	United States
		8230 125 th Court	Kirkland	Washington 98034/USA
204	FULL NAME OF INVENTOR	FAMILY NAME	FIRST GIVEN NAME	SECOND GIVEN NAME
	RESIDENCE & CITIZENSHIP	CITY	STATE/FOREIGN COUNTRY	COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP
	POST OFFICE ADDRESS	P.O. ADDRESS	CITY	STATE & ZIP CODE/CTRY
		Beer	Steven	V.
		Ithaca	New York	United States
		211 Hudson Street	Ithaca	New York 14850/USA

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statement may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

SIGNATURE OF INVENTOR 201

SIGNATURE OF INVENTOR 202

SIGNATURE OF INVENTOR 203

DATE 5-01-00

DATE 04/28/00

DATE

SIGNATURE OF INVENTOR 204

SIGNATURE OF INVENTOR 205

SIGNATURE OF INVENTOR 206

DATE 4/28/00

DATE

DATE

**SUPPLEMENTAL COMBINED DECLARATION FOR PATENT
APPLICATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY**
(Includes Reference to PCT International Applications)

ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER
19603/1661 (CRF D-2098A)

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

HYPERSENSITIVE RESPONSE ELICITOR FROM *ERWINIA AMYLOVORA*, ITS USE, AND ENCODING GENE

the specification of which (check only one item below):

- ☐ is attached hereto.
- ☒ was filed as U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/120,663 on July 22, 1998 and was amended under PCT Article 19 on _____ (if applicable).
- ☐ was filed as PCT International Application No. _____ on _____ and was amended under PCT Article 19 on _____ (if applicable).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specifications, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56(a).

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, § 119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate or of any PCT international application(s) designating at least one country other than the United States listed below and have also identified below any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate or any PCT international application(s) designating at least one country other than the United States of America filed by me on the same subject matter having a filing date before that of the application(s) of which priority is claimed:

PRIOR FOREIGN/PCT APPLICATION(S) AND ANY PRIORITY CLAIMS UNDER 35 U.S.C. 119:

COUNTRY (IF PCT, indicate "PCT")	APPLICATION NUMBER	DATE OF FILING (day, month, year)	PRIORITY CLAIMED UNDER 35 USC 119
United States	60/055,106	06-AUG-1997	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
			<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
			<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, § 120 of any United States application(s) or PCT international application(s) designating the United States of America that is/are listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in that/those prior application(s) in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, § 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56(a) which occurred between the filing date of the prior application(s) and the national or PCT International filing date of this application:

PRIOR U.S. APPLICATIONS OR PCT INTERNATIONAL APPLICATIONS DESIGNATING THE U.S. FOR BENEFIT UNDER 35 U.S.C. 120:

U.S. APPLICATIONS		STATUS (Check One)		
U.S. APPLICATION NUMBER	U.S. FILING DATE	PATENTED	PENDING	ABANDONED
PCT APPLICATIONS DESIGNATING THE U.S.				
PCT APPLICATION NO.	PCT FILING DATE	U.S. SERIAL NUMBERS ASSIGNED (if any)		

COMBINED DECLARATION FOR PATENT APPLICATION
AND POWER OF ATTORNEY (Continue)

ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER

19603/1661 (CRF D-2098A)

POWER OF ATTORNEY: As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agent(s) to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith. Michael L. Goldman, Registration No. 30,727; Gunnar G. Leinberg, Registration No. 35,584; Dennis M. Connolly, Registration No. 40,964; Edwin V. Merkel, Registration No. 40,087; Georgia Caton, Registration No. 44,597; Grant E. Pollack, Registration No. 34,097

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I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statement may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

SIGNATURE OF INVENTOR 201	SIGNATURE OF INVENTOR 202	SIGNATURE OF INVENTOR 203
DATE	DATE	DATE X 4/28/2000
SIGNATURE OF INVENTOR 204	SIGNATURE OF INVENTOR 205	SIGNATURE OF INVENTOR 206
DATE	DATE	DATE